Burnside Bridge today looking from the Federal side

A Civil War Story

From Letters Written By
Oliver Cromwell Case
To His Sister Abbie

"If you die, die like a man"
A Quote from Oliver's Bible

Edited by Richard K. Converse

Fort Mill, S. C.
Published September, 2010

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another soldiers diary
for Aug – Sept

the Forts
Fort Monroe
, Hampton, VA

New Bern

Fort Macon Ch II

Bouse Island Ch 12

Jones

i-Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Phelps Tavern Museum located in Simsbury, Connecticut for transcribing the Oliver Cromwell letters and furnishing them to me.

I wish I could thank Abbie Jane Case and her descendants for saving Oliver Cromwell Case's letters. They are among the neatest Case family papers I have discovered.

Thank you to Mr. Kurt Wilson, Archivist at Phelps Tavern Museum. His assistance with the Oliver Cromwell Case letters and family papers is appreciated.

Thank you to Angela Church, docent at Phelps Tavern Museum, for taking the photographs of the headstones of Oliver Cromwell Case and his family that are located in the Hop Meadow Cemetery located in Simsbury, Connecticut.

Thank you to Terry Myers, a good neighbor, for his review and excellent suggestions for improving this booklet.

To my wife, Betty J. Converse, Thank you for supporting me and listening as I talked about this project and many others I have been involved in related to the Case Family Historical Markers placed in the State of Ohio.

- Ohio Historical Society marker that included five Case family men. Ambrose, George, Jonathan, Seth, and Silas Case who were members of The Union Land Company and were part of the 26 men who purchased 4,000 acres in Liberty Township, Delaware County, State of Ohio in 1806. The Ohio Historical marker is located in Highbanks Metro Park in Delaware County. See website: http://ohiocasefamily.tripod.com

- Memorial Grave Marker honoring Seth Case, a Revolutionary War member of the Connecticut State Troops, who died in 1813 in Ohio. His memorial grave marker is located in the cemetery at Liberty Presbyterian Church in Delaware County, Ohio. See website: http://sethcase.tripod.com

ii. Introduction

That statement, "*If you die, die like a man*," was written in Oliver's Bible, (3) It appears to be as foreboding as it was a foretelling declaration of what the future held for this young man. In just one year after he joined the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (CVI) he would be shot on a battlefield in Maryland. This story is taken from his letters that he wrote as he journeyed south from Connecticut to the Bloodiest One Day Battle in the Civil War. From his letters his interest in his family back home, his duties as a soldier, the everyday events that went on in his life can be seen. The history of the Eighth Regiment of the CVI and the Federal and Confederate Armies' preparation for battle and the events that led up to and the battle at Antietam Creek add to the story.

In his letter to his sister of April 17, 1862 he said, "I may not get home, but I think I stand as good a chance as anyone in the company." Later in the same letter he talks about death saying, "I felt very different upon the battle [at Bogue Island] than I expected. There is not the dread of death that one naturally expects." It sounded like this young man was no longer a boy but has become a man and a brave soldier.

The firsthand accounts of those who were in the conflict remain the most valuable tools for understanding the Civil War. This collection of letters provides glimpses into the life of Oliver Cromwell Case who provided an understanding and his perspective of the time he served in the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

The reader will find that sometimes when Oliver Cromwell Case is writing a letter to his sister that the circumstances and where he is makes it difficult to write so he writes in short sentences that are not complete thoughts.

In one place he was talking about eating sitting down a table. It was the first time in several months that he could eat like folks instead of hogs since he had left Hartford, as he described it.

Having to write without a desk or table would cause a problem. He was in an uncomfortable position to have to write his letters sitting on a bed, sitting on the ground or trying to write on a schooner. The paper, the ink or the pencil were not top quality and many times he did not have the time to write a leisurely letter.

At least once he mentions that he was writing with a pencil on packing paper that already had markings on the paper.

He and his fellow soldiers enjoyed getting mail from home but to get mail they had to furnish their families information about themselves. Do not be too critical of Oliver. Sometimes he wrote in incomplete sentences. The Editor wanted to maintain the integrity of his thoughts and words.

In addition to what he said to his sister in his letters he also wrote letters to many other people—his brothers, his father, other family members and friends. While researching Oliver Cromwell Case I have found one short letter he wrote to "Dear Friend." We do not know who this friend was. Also, I have a copy of a letter in Oliver's own hand writing that he sent to his brother Alonzo in December 1861. It shows good training in school. His book writing

iii--2009 Trip to Simsbury

One of my goals over the past six years has been to visit Simsbury, Connecticut. One branch of my mother's family, the Case family, came from there to Ohio in the early 1800s. I wanted to visit the town and discover a little of what their experience was like there. Little did I know where it would lead in 2009 when Betty, my wife, and I decided to take a genealogy trip of 3,000 miles in 17 days. She made some great discoveries about her grandparents and Locke, NY where her father was born. I was very fortunate with what I found and experienced.

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bringing out of the archives documents for me to review and decide if there was something in the files that I might be interested in having copied for me. After visually scanning a file of transcribed letters I saw they were written by Oliver Cromwell Case, a Civil War soldier, in 1861 and 1862. I knew I wanted copies of them. I felt they had historical significance as well as importance to the Case descendants. My mother was a Case descendent. Her grandmother was Sarah Elizabeth Case Williams. After returning home transcribed letters were received and during subsequent internet searches more was learned about Oliver. This story will tell about many of the details that were revealed in his letters about him, his family and his experiences in the 8 th Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry.

iv--2010 Trip to Antietam

In July 2010 my wife Betty, our grandson Logan and I traveled to the Antietam Battle Field. A Park Ranger from the National Park Service there provided a very informative two and one-half hour personal tour of the battle field, the monuments and the Antietam National Cemetery. It was interesting and sad to see where the battles took place and to gain further understanding of the part the 8 th Regiment Connecticut Volunteer Infantry had in the final battle where Oliver Cromwell Case was killed along with nearly half of his Regiment.

While walking in the cemetery in Section 16 where the Connecticut dead were buried we saw the marker honoring Oliver C. Case and additionally we saw another grave marker 1118 for Orville J. Case. At this point I do not know much about him except he was a private in the 16 th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, he was from West Hartford, Connecticut and that he died October 12, 1862. He died of disease near Antietam according to the History of Antietam National Cemetery. It also states his body was removed from Antietam.

v--About the Cover:

The photograph (on the cover) of the Burnside Bridge was taken by a photographer during the fall of the year from behind the stone wall from where the Federal troops were trying to cross Antietam Creek over the bridge. With the leaves missing from the trees it clearly shows the bluff, overlooking the narrow bridge, where the 20 th Georgia sharp shooters hid all day. The 20 th Georgia was on the high wooded bluff opposite the end of the Bridge. They shot at and killed many Federal troops as they tried to cross the bridge during this final battle on that fatal day of September 17, 1862. At 1 PM the bridge was taken by an assault of a Federal Brigade and the Georgia defenders had to fall back. There is a plaque on the west side of the bridge erected by the Confederate States of America describing this battle.

vi--Grammar

A generally accepted grammatical rule for longer quotes states they should be indented from the text by one inch. However, the Editor has elected to keep Oliver Case's quotations from his letters included in the body of the story with quote marks. His letters are the story and his words are kept in the body of the story along with supporting information.

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Chapter 1—Oliver's Family

A brief Case family history: The ancient family of Case had its seat in Aylesham, England, where they were a noted family as far back as the time of Oliver Cromwell. They accumulated their fortunes by furnishing leather for Cromwell's army, being tanners and farmers.

John Case I, born about 1616 in Aylesham, England, died February 21, 1704 in Simsbury, Hartford County, Connecticut; married about 1657 in Hartford, Hartford Co., Connecticut, to Sarah Spencer, born March 1635/1636 in Cambridge, Middlesex Co., Massachusetts, daughter of William Spencer, Esq., and Agnes Harris of Hartford, Connecticut.

He resided in Windsor, Connecticut until the spring of 1669 when he removed to where Simsbury is now, and settled in Weatogue. Sarah died November 3, 1691 age 55 in Windsor, Hartford County, Connecticut, and she is buried in Hop Meadow Cemetery in Simsbury. John I married second Elizabeth, she died July, 23, 1728 age 90, Windsor, Connecticut, she was the widow of Nathaniel Loomis, Windsor, Connecticut. John Case I was appointed constable for Massacoe by the General Court, October 14, 1669, being the first person that ever held office at that place. He represented Massacoe at the General Court in 1670 and several times after. (17)

Oliver Cromwell Case, John Case I's great-great-great-great grandson, was born, as some sources show, about 1840 in Simsbury, Connecticut. (1) However, a Family Tree Maker internet site, Descendants of Thomas Ensigne, states his date of birth as December 22, 1839. He was the fourth child born to Job and Abigail Griswold Phelps Case. Oliver was named for Abigail's father Major Oliver Cromwell Phelps. (1)

The first child of Job and Abigail was Rachel Lurannah Case. She was born in 1829 and died in 1830 at about 18 months old. She was named after Abigail's mother Lurannah Phelps. Sons, in addition to Oliver, born to Job and Abigail were Ariel Job born in 1831 (he lived to be 44 years old) and Alonzo Grove born in 1834 (he lived to be 68 years old). Both of Oliver's brothers, Alonzo Grove and Ariel Job Case, served in the 16 th Regiment of the Connecticut Voluntary Infantry. Oliver's youngest sibling was a sister Abbie Jane Case born in 1846. She was the recipient of all of the letters used for this story. All of Job and Abigale's children were born in Simsbury. (1, 2)

Interestingly Oliver and I are related—I have confirmed that Oliver and I are third cousins four times removed. Our common ancestors are John III and Abigale Humphery Case. They are my fifth-great grandparents and they are his great-great grandparents.

As another writer said, "I wish I knew more about Oliver ... but I don't." (3) That is my feeling as well. But in another way I feel like I knew him as a 22 year old since I have discovered so much from his letters about his thoughts and concerns during his military service in the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (CVI).

One year before the outbreak of the Civil War the 1860 United States Census (10) was taken in Simsbury, Hartford County, in the state of Connecticut and showed the following for Job Case's family (Oliver's father):

	Age	Occupation	R. E. Value	Personal Estate
Job Case	54	Farmer	$2500	$100
Abigale Case	54	Keeping house		
Oliver Case	20	[Farm] Laborer		
Abbie Case	13			
Sarah C. Phelps	73			

Oliver's two older brothers were married and not living at home in 1860. Ariel had married Mary Elizabeth Thompson in 1854 and Alonzo married Julia S. Chaffee in 1857. (2)

Oliver's brother Ariel Job Case had a child born to him and Mary Elizabeth, his wife, on September 11, 1862, six days before Oliver died, that they named Oliver Cromwell Case in honor of his brother who was serving in the Civil War at the time of the baby's birth.

Chapter 2—Oliver Enlists

In September 1861 at twenty-one years of age Oliver enlisted in Company B, 8 th Regiment CVI in Hartford to begin his training to go fight for the Union Army in the Civil War. (3) By October he was transferred to Company A of the 8 th CVI. On October 17 the Regiment left Hartford and started their long trip toward their first major stop in Annapolis. First the Regiment was sent from Hartford to the Camp of Instruction on Long Island. (3)

The 16 th Regiment of the Connecticut Infantry was organized at Hartford, Connecticut on August 24, 1862. Oliver's two brothers, Alonzo G. Case and Ariel J. Case, were members of this Regiment. Alonzo was promoted to First Lieutenant and Ariel was a Second Lieutenant by the time they were mustered out. Also, Alonzo was captured during the siege of Plymouth on April 20, 1864. He was imprisoned at Andersonville Prison, Georgia. He survived and was paroled March 7, 1865. (4)

The 8 th Regiment, 995 strong, was mustered into Federal service on October 5, 1861 and spent two weeks in a camp of instruction on Long Island, New York, with Colonel Edward Harland in command. It was fortunate having him as commander since the well-to-do lawyer and close friend of the governor made sure that the Regiment was well-equipped before it left the state. (44)

There were 60 men with a surname of Case who were members of various Regiments of the Connecticut Infantry fighting in the Union army during the Civil War. A listing of each man and the Regiment they served in is included in the Appendix of this book. (4)

Chapter 3—Long Island

All of the letters that were preserved written by Oliver in 1861 and 1862 were addressed to "Dear Sister." Oliver wrote many letters home to his sister Abbie. The first existing letter was dated October 20, 1861 and sent from Camp near Jamaica, Long Island. Oliver says, "... writing home to you to let you know that I am safe and sound." He told that they had a pleasant time going down the [Connecticut] river. Crowds were cheering

along the river as they passed by. He said that they spread their beds all over the floor [of the boat] and "bunked like a mess of pigs". He slept soundly for about two hours until he heard his name called to stand guard for an hour. (5)

The Connecticut River flowed past Hartford and on a south-southeasterly direction to Long Island Sound. Then the boat must have sailed west to go down the East River past New York City, Brooklyn and arrive off of Staten Island then landing at Hunters Point after it passed by New York City again.

Oliver continued, "I was relieved about 12 and ½ o'clock (sic) but did not get much sleep.... About four o'clock New York could be seen through the fog but we kept on past New York, Brooklyn and at six o'clock arrived off Staten Island and lay there ... we then landed into shore... the steamers were brought under way for we knew not where. We again passed N. Y. and had a splendid view.... We landed at Hunter's Point, L. I. about three o'clock P. M. A part of the regiment took the cars [train] immediately but our company ... waited ... for 2 or 3 hours [for] the train to carry us off. All things must have an end and so did our waiting." (5)

Oliver closes this letter saying, "Simsbury boys are all well. We know not how long we shall stay here. My love to all." (5)

Oliver's next letter from Camp Buckingham, Jamaica, L.I. was dated October 28, 1861. He started this letter wanting to know why Abbie had not answered his letter of October 21. His brother had written him and told him that grandmother was not well. (6)

The National Park Service writes about leisure time being spent writing letters home. Soldiers were prolific letter writers and wrote at every opportunity. It was the only way for them to communicate with loved ones and inform the home folks of their condition and where they were. Thrifty soldiers sent their pay home to support their families and kept only a small amount to see them through until the next payday. The arrival of mail in camp was a cause for celebration no matter where the soldiers were and there was sincere grumbling when the mail arrived late.

Oliver continues that at the camp they had built "such a fire you do not often see ...." Most of the Regiment went to church. Oliver was on guard duty so he did not get to go. (6)

Oliver tells Abbie, "Jamaica is one of the most pleasantest (sic) places I ever saw. It is situated ½ mile from camp. The people gave our Regt. over a thousand loaves of bread last week ... besides giving us many apples ...." Oliver says, "I have been doing my washing ... I think I will make a good washerwoman." He closes saying, "Simsbury boys all well. See Benejah every day." (6)

Benejah is mentioned in many of Oliver's letters but his full name and relationship to Abbie or to him is never explained or discussed.

Chapter 4—On to Annapolis

Oliver's next letter of October 31 was written from Camp Buckingham also. He writes: "Our camp is full of rumors as to when we shall leave ... my opinion is we shall not leave this week or until the Tenth Regiment arrives ... I was up to Jamaica to hear a lecture delivered by our chaplain, it was one of the best I have ever heard ... we are

treated much better than in Connecticut ... we are treated with respect wherever we go by the citizens, apples and turnips are free to us." (7)

"News here is as scarce as hens teeth ... the whole regiment had ... to march in before the Dr. and Capt. minus all our cloths and be subject to a through examination." (7)

"... There are 2 or 3 in our tent playing on their violins, and it is full of spectators.... Benejah is in the tent while I am writing.... I wish you would send me one dollar, postage stamps, I had some things to buy ... paper, satchel, book and some other things ... I spent some for victuals …." (7)

A letter sent from Perryville, Maryland on November 3 rd Oliver said that they stayed at the depot at Hunter's Point "till 8 o'clock and then went aboard the boat for South Amboy. 1,000 soldiers were on the steamer with "every available niche of room was occupied many of us lying with our heads upon each other." (8)

"One hour we were, that is the boat, was hauled to Pier No 1 N. River to wait for the storm to abate." They reached South Amboy safely. At four o'clock they left the boat and "we got upon the cars with but little delay and tried to start for Philadelphia which was not so easy a job as you might imagine as we had ~~we had~~ 19 passenger cars, but with help of another engine we got under way and arrived safely seven and one-half hours later." They boarded another train with 27 cars in all, 19 with passengers and 8 cars were for horses and baggage. "Eleven couplings broke at different places" before they arrived at Perryville, Maryland. (8)

"We arrived here not far from midnight and stretched ourselves in the depot as best we might [be] expecting to be called to fall in to the boat at any moment. I never slept better in my life than I did last night …." (8)

"I never saw men in better spirits than we are at present. We are confined in and about the depot with a guard …." (8)

"This place is situated upon the NE bank of the Susquehanna [River], upon the Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia RR about thirty miles from the former place. There is a steam ferry boat which carries over a whole train of cars at once so there is no change of cars at this place for the south. We expect to leave on the boat every minute." (8)

The next letter dated November 11 from Camp Hicks, Annapolis Oliver says, "... received yours of the 31 st and one of the 8 th ... and ... have three letters from you ... I received one from Ariel [his brother].... We had a very pleasant trip down the Chesapeake arriving at Annapolis Tuesday night where we were quartered in a college…. Thursday we marched for camp, pitched our tents and stayed overnight. It is situated one and one half miles from the city.... Friday about 11:30 as I had my gun all taken to pieces, I heard my name called and was told to pack my knapsack and ... report for special duty to be gone perhaps one day or perhaps three weeks and report at ½ after twelve. You can guess I had to scratch around some to get my things packed, my gun put together and dinner eaten and be ready on time. In all 106 men were going for special duty." (9)

There were two types of marching orders employed,--"heavy marching-order," and "light marching-order." The former meant that the troops were to carry all they possessed with them; the other was to march with only the musket, ammunition,

haversack, and canteen ready for working or fighting. (20) Obviously this was a light march.

Oliver tells his sister, "We marched to the city, halted before an old brick building and were marched in and told those were to be our quarters." Our duty was to patrol the city in squads of ten and arrest all soldiers without a pass, drunken or disorderly. "The relief I am in is on from 11 to 3 night and day." The rest of the time they could go when and where they wanted. Oliver thought they were "privileged characters." (9)

Oliver described the town [Annapolis] as "not having street names, no number on a door, the streets are overgrown with grass and overrun with rubbish.... Houses were old and many looked like hog pens." He said, "Churches were only nice on the inside and they are the only nice looking buildings there are here except for the Capital building." (9)

He wrote about family saying I hope mother was not hurt by her fall and tells Abbie [that] Alonzo's baby is sick. Then he asks, "What appears to be the matter?" (9)

Once again he gives his sister this little report, "Simsbury boys all well the last time I saw them." He continues to write that a report from camp that they are all going in the brigade [Burnside's]. "I am wholly indifferent as to weather we go or stay. We have the best of quarters here, but come to think I guess I should like to see more of *Dixie Land* (italics added). I never enjoyed myself better in my life than I have since I enlisted. When you see Ariel tell him to let you see my last letter, the same with Alonzo" (9)

Oliver closes with this, "Love to grandmother, father and mother. Respect to all inquiring friends." (9)

At the beginning in his next letter of November 13 from Annapolis he says, "I am much rejoiced to hear that mother has received no serious injury from her fall" and that he was "thankful for the mittens [from Abbie]...with a finger in them. They are just the thing and better than gloves." (11)

"I attended a colored church Sunday and if there was ever enthusiasm in any place, [it] was there ... there was much shouting and clapping of hands. There was yelling and groaning as you never heard" during prayer. During singing "they kept time by snapping their fingers, stamping, rocking their bodies to and fro." (11

"There was a little negro sitting by the side of me, and seeing I was pleased said, 'You ought to hear them some nights they make a heap more noise than tonight, sometimes they knock down the stove by their stamping.'" (11

Oliver explains about newspapers, "I receive papers everyday or two from Ariel ... but I should like the *Weekly Press* as well as any, as it contains the local news as well as the others." (11

"Tell grandmother that I have enough to eat, and rest as well as at home, that it is not as hard work as working on the farm .... It is as warm as summer here except the nights which are chilly but I have seen no frost here yet. I ... received six letters and six papers in that time so you see I am kept quite well posted about things in *Old Conn.*" (italics added) (11)

"The brigade will probably leave in the course of a week whether with or without our regiment we know not, probably shall not until the day they leave. The war news is cheering and our boys will feel slighted if they do not go south with the brigade... and

share their glory. The boys of your acquaintance were all well…. Give my love to all inquiring friends." (11

The speculation of when they might move must have been a soldier's way of passing time. They remained in Annapolis until the middle of January.

Oliver writes a letter from Camp Burnside, Annapolis on November 28, 1861. He says, "the camp is situated 1 ½ miles from our quarters" … He goes on to tell Abbie that the camp is filling up with soldiers, 1,200 Calvary and 800 Zouaves [a military unit adopting the dress (bright uniforms) and drill (quick spirited) of the Zouaves] having arrived within the last week. They are from New York." (12)

"Part of the Calvary have (sic) left for Fort Monroe and others are expected to leave soon." Once again he writes about the uncertainty of when his Regiment will leave, "We shall probably leave in the course of 2 weeks but may leave any day, or we may stay 6 weeks…. Major Hathaway arrived here yesterday from Washington. He left on the 3 PM train for the north. I saw him a short time before he started. He told me he was going to be at L. G. Goodrich's for Thanksgiving. He says he shall be here again in two weeks if we do not leave before that time…." (12)

"It has been rumored that we shall spend the winter here but the last rumor is that the 51 st N. Y. is the one to be left. If they stay, I guess the citizens will get enough of the soldiers before winter is over for they are the hardest set of boys that are encamped here …. Nine tenths of the arrests we make are of that 51 st Regiment." (12)

"We are treated with much respect by the citizens and they often send in some shortcakes, gingersnaps, cookies etc.; of course, only a bite for each but enough to know that we have their good will…. When we first came here they were shy of us always avoiding us if possible, but now they are quite familiar with us at almost anytime. The soldiers that had been here before were a pretty rough set. It is reported that a letter that the people of this place had sent to Gen. Burnside requesting him to let us stay here this winter." (12)

"The time is set for next Thursday when we may be paid and then again we may not. I shall not write again until I get paid off as I shall have used up all the stamps you sent me." The weather is quite cold so that it froze a little last night. We have much wet weather but thanks to our rubber blankets we keep dry." (12)

It must have been very discouraging for some with the uncertainty if they were to stay or go, if they would be paid or not and the weather is always a problem for a soldier. Oliver seems to take it all in stride.

Oliver talks about the war and when it may end. He says, "Some say it will be over in six months but he does not believe that and may last a year or a year and a half." Then as he is finishing his letter he says, "I have just stopped writing to get some Ginger Snaps that a Negro women is giving the boys. They are excellent." He closes this letter by sending his respects "to all inquiring friends." (12)

Next he writes a short note on December 10 from Annapolis. Oliver writes, "I was not feeling well …. The next day I was excused from drill by the surgeon and about noon was taken with a chill and went to the hospital where I have had as good accommodations as could be, good beds and clothes, and everything as comfortable as at home. I am now well except weak and as it is pleasant day the nurse let me walk out a little while. It is as warm as summer." He closes with, "Respect to all." (13)

Again his next letter is sent from Annapolis on December 13. He tells Abbie he received her letter of December 10 last evening and that he was surprised to think that she had not heard from him for such a long time. Also, he did receive her letter of the first but did not feel well that night and being chilly the next day he went to the hospital, "… it being very comfortable there. It is supplied with good bedding, two good stoves, a tight floor and is almost as comfortable as it would be at home. I was discharged from there yesterday morning." He explains she should not be worried about him if she does not receive letters regularly "for the mails are very irregular." (14)

Oliver begins to talk to her about school. "I see … that you are attending school in Weatogue …. That is what I should have advised you to do, so as to review the new books that they have now in the town of S[imsbury] as well as to continue your studies in Algebra and Latin or, if not French. If you want money to buy books take what I have in the bank or any other of mine and use it. I shall probably send home about $30.00 the first of January. That you can have." (14)

"There is some speculation as to who will be our 2 nd Lieutenant…. Some say the Captain is calculating to get the orderly into that position but that will never work here because he is about played out." (14)

An Orderly was a type of assistant for an officer. In addition to being a sort of body guard, they would run personal errands and look after the officer's personal effects.

Speaking about a soldier that Abbie had inquired about … "He (Barnum) was pretty small potatoes anyway. All that was the matter with him was that he was *scared* nearly to death and he feigned sickness that he might get a discharge. He was discharged in Jamaica, for a milk and water man is no good to the army." (14)

Once again Oliver's friend Benejah is in the tent while he is writing this letter. "He has been over here to shirk drill this morning." (14)

Oliver again writes about speculation on when they might leave. He says, "It looks now as if we should not leave here for some time to come but we cannot tell; we are liable to leave here any moment; that is to have marching orders any day." (14)

He closes with "Love and respects to all." (14)

On December 16 he writes his sister again from Annapolis and says, "I received the long expected Thanksgiving dinner Saturday. The chicken looked rather old although I tasted a few pieces near the inside that were good. The walnuts, chestnuts and some of the apples were nice and we have been having quite a feast…. [My] tent mate that opened the box says, 'tell your folks that I tasted everything that there was in the box and found it very nice only getting rather old.' The pudding and chicken pie looked as if they were good in their day but their flavor was rather strong when [they] opened the box." (15)

"Corp. Porter … has been sick for the last three or four weeks with camp fever. It has been pretty hard run with him but I think he is getting better, although he has a very hard cough." Oliver says that Porter's brother is in camp and hopes to take him home when he gets stronger. (15)

Camp Fever during the Civil War included symptoms of pronounced chill followed by intermittent fever, abdominal tenderness and nausea, general debility, diarrhea and furring of the tongue.

Writing again about leaving camp he says, "I suppose that we shall leave here between now and the first of January or, if not, by the 10 th." (15)

"Charleston burnt. Hurrah for that. England and France are going to acknowledge the independence of the Southern Confederacy. All right, we can whip them all." (15)

"I received a letter from Ariel today … Lieutenant Marsh wrote to him that I had gone to the hospital with an attack of fever and ague. Oliver talks about his illness, "I had two good shakes and they gave me spirits of turpentine and broke it up. I had to take quinine for three or four days and then was discharged as well as ever. That was all the sickness amounted to." (15)

"Remember me to all" is his closing for this letter. (15)

Still in Annapolis on December 17 he writes, "I have just received a carpet bag of goodies … and I can assure you if ever anything was welcome that was. The things were good, better, best. Those nut cakes tasted like home and were better. The cranberries, cider and wine were just what I wanted …. In fact, everything hit just the spot." (16)

"I have been drilling two days since I was sick and now I am as well as ever." (16)

"Mrs. Lieut. Marsh [who had recently arrived] offers to mend any clothes for the soldiers that they wish. I think she may have some sewing for a day or two." (16)

Oliver mentions that the orderly is in camp even though he does no duty. He says, "there is no doubt but that he will resign before we leave here but when I know not. Of course, there is a good deal of speculation as to who will be 2 nd lieut. We of course all have our preferences but time will determine who has succeeded in getting the post." (16)

"I have just been sent to see the Sheriff and the Major off. I never saw L. G. [Goodrich] as sociable before. He had been to the 10 th Regt. to see the boys; says they are in the best of spirits." (16)

Oliver begins to talk about their Lieut. Col. "[He] is soon to resign. I hope it is true," Oliver says, "for he does not now, nor ever did and I think never will learn about the military. He is the laughing stock of the brigade when he tries to drill the Regt. There are very few orders that he can give correctly. If Col. should get the post of Brig. Gen. and our Lieut. Col. resign, the command would devolve [to pass on as responsibility or power] upon the Major, who is a thorough bred military man as well as a perfect gentleman. The boys will go through anything with him to lead them." (16)

Once again, "Benjah is in our tent writing," he says. "Gavette can not be hired to enlist." (16)

"I reckon that you will have studies a plenty this winter although French will not come very hard if you understand Latin pretty well." (16)

Oliver closed this letter of December 17 saying, "Remember me to Aaron. Give my respects to Grandmother, Cousin Mary, and all other inquiring friends." (16)

The 8 th Regiment CVI is still in Annapolis on December 21, Oliver writes to his sister and says, "The boys are nearly all gone gathering evergreen to trim the streets as Gen. Burnside is going to inspect the camp today. Gen. Burnside reviewed the whole division yesterday consisting of 12,000 men. We were reviewed the day before by the Brigadiers so that by all appearances we shall leave for *Dixie* (italics added) before many weeks. The 11 th Conn. arrived yesterday and went to camp above us near the

10 th. They were a very good looking Regt. indeed. I did not see anyone in the ranks that I knew." (18)

Once again he talks about leaving. He says, "the transports and steamers are lying in the bay ready to carry us at anytime that we get orders." (18)

"We have been flooring over part of our tent and dug the dirt away in front of it so as to make a good place to sit upon. Out tent at present is as convenient as any house. I tell you we live like kings." (18)

Chapter 5—Preparing for Battle

To prepare the company for battle "they have been out four times target shooting…. They cut the board pretty much to pieces the last time out. I think this time they did better than any other Co. which is saying a great thing as the sharpies rifles have always hone off the palm before. I suppose before many weeks we shall be trying our shooting irons upon some of the traitors between Galveston Bay and Fortress Monroe." (18)

Fort Monroe (also known as Fortress Monroe) is at Hampton, Virginia. It guarded the approach by sea of the navigational shipping channel between the Chesapeake Bay and the entrance to the harbor of Hampton Roads, which itself is formed by the confluence of the Elizabeth River, the Nansemond River, and the James River, the longest in Virginia. Throughout the American Civil War (1861–1865), although most of Virginia became part of the Confederacy, Fort Monroe remained in Union hands. (17)

"There has been several court martials held since we have been here and sentences are very severe for running guard, insulting officers, committing nuisances, etc. One man has to forfeit ½ months pay and he in the guard tent for fifteen days, another has had 30 lbs of dirt put in his knapsack and made to do regular duty. The punishment of being in the guard tent is more severe than you might think this season of the year, for they have no fire nor [sic] any chance of exercise and their food consists of bread and water. A man is very foolish to think of breaking the rules for they are not any more galling than civil law, but the penalties are much more severe. There is a fellow in our company close to our tent standing on a barrel with a guard around him for insulting his Corporal. If I had been in his place I would not have borne half as much from him for he insulted him every way possible before the Corporal reported." (18)

He closes this letter saying, "tell grandmother that I have a warmer berth this winter than I should have [up] north and enjoy myself better. Respects to all." (21)

It is Christmas Day, December 25 and Oliver is writing from Annapolis. Interestingly he does not mention anything about Christmas in this letter. (21)

Oliver was told to report to Gen. Burnside's headquarters with five others from his Regt. "I was the only one from our Company. We went down and stayed at Gen. Burnside's until dark when we were conveyed aboard the *Arneal*, a large transport, and took supper and spent the night. We had good accommodations and set down to a table and ate like folks instead of hogs. It is the first time that I have sat down at a table to eat since I left H[artford]." (21)

Burnside made a row of all the men starting with the largest. "He considered for some time and then picked out the largest"… men. "They [were] detailed one for a ship to be placed in the magazine and stow away the different size balls in the proper places and keep a memorandum of where and how many of a kind so that when they are wanted they can put their hands on them without any trouble…. They were to deliver out the

ammunition in case of an attack. The General … needed strong men to handle the large balls...." (21)

"The harbor is full of transports and gun ships all with the exception of 3 or 4 painted black." Oliver says that there are, "30 or more besides some that have not yet arrived. He speculates that he "may have a chance upon one but do not know. We shall probably start in the course of a couple of weeks for *way down in Dixie* [italics added] and I presume wherever we go we shall be warmly received." (21)

"As to studies, I should think that you had as many as you can attend to at present…. Composition I think is a very good study." (21)

Abbie Jane, Oliver's sister, is 15 years old. Oliver is six years older than she is so he is giving her big brother counsel.

"Hope father is not going to be sick, he must be very careful of himself or he will get down." Oliver closes, "Excuse writing as 'the shakes' are not pleasant to write with. [Give my] respects to all inquiring friends, especially to Cousin Mary and Grandmother." (21)

On December 30 he is telling his sister that he had "the ague for nearly a week and [now I am] feeling as well as I ever did in my life, but the Dr. has excused me from night duty as he said that I should be a little careful." (22)

Ague an acute fever attended by alternate cold and hot fits; the cold fit or rigor of the intermittent fever; a chill, or state of shaking, as with cold; to strike with a cold fit. (23)

Chapter 6—General Burnside's Expedition

Oliver says, "Judge my surprise then, when I was summoned to pack knapsack and report to the hospital ship. It is fitted up full of good berths and is a different affair from those steamers we came in on. The surgeon has not been around yet, but I expect when he does to be discharged and go back to camp. Sexton is here with me. He has had the jaundice but is much better. There are but a few that are on board that are sick with any disease, but are most of them convalescents that are hardly strong enough for duty." (22)

Jaundice is yellowing in the skin and the whites of the eyes. The yellow color is caused by the waste of old red bloods cells. Jaundice occurs when there are too many old, red blood cells for the liver to process.

"Marching orders to be ready at twelve hours notice were read upon the dress parade last night. We shall probably leave in the course of a week or ten days at farthest. It is thought that we shall go up the James River to Richmond but of course it is all rumors. If we do we shall have some tall fighting." (22)

"Watson E. Carr is aboard of this schooner as he has had the camp fever and measles and is not as yet got strong. He looks quite thin but is in excellent spirits. Charles Arnold, aged 19 from Bridgeport died Saturday. He had camp fever … was not so particular as he should be about eating; therefore he was taken down. This takes two deaths within a week from our Company. There are but two much sick in the hospital from our Co. now. They are Porter and Brown." (22)

He closes this letter with this: "Give my respects to all inquiring friends and particularly to Father, Mother and Grandmother." (22)

This is the first letter from Oliver in 1862 written on January 3 to his sister. He was on board the Schooner *Recruit*. He starts with the comment that he was expecting a letter from his sister. So, he says, "I again take my pencil to write you. The last day I last wrote you, myself and 120 more of those that were nearly well were carried aboard *Scout,* another schooner lying in the harbor. We had been there two days when the doctor came and looked us over and those that were fit for duty were selected, some for duty there. 20 of us …were carried back on board the hospital ship for guard duty.... the guard duty is easy but it is cold on deck at night. At 11 o'clock today, water froze as soon as it touched the deck. We take turns about standing on deck so it is quite an easy job after all. I am now … dipping water for everyone that wants to drink and writing when I get the chance." (24)

"The Captains of many of the regiments are here with the payrolls to be signed before drawing pay. Sexton is on board quite sick with the jaundice. I do not believe he will go with us. Everything looks as if we should leave for *Dixie* [italics added] in a short time. The [men on the ship's] crew are bravely at work tightening the ropes and making everything taut for a start and at the camps they are paying off the men as fast as possible. There has been a great deal of trouble among the Zouaves with their officers, partly because the Col. would not allow them to be paid since they enlisted (which has been 4 months) and partly because the officers were all Frenchmen and the men were all Yorkers and Irish. Many of them have sworn to shoot him in the first engagement they are in. Rumor from their camp today is that the regiment is to be dissolved and the men distributed among other regiments. Probably part of the rumor is true and part false." (24)

"I expect I must have quite a number of letters at camp for I have received none for a week and I have five due." (24)

"Our accommodations aboard this boat are good. The only fault I have to find is that the floors are all of the time wet making the craft very damp all over and the vessel is so close upon the lower deck as to be almost stifling." (24)

"There are all kinds of coughs here from the common cold, cough to the consumption and from the whooping cough to the crazy hack. It is amusing to be awake and hear the different kinds of hack and to count them. There is no smoking allowed except in the steerage. If I can get hold of my money before I go I shall send it home. I have sent word to camp today to have it drawn if I am not there." (24)

Oliver closes this letter with this request, "write soon directing as before. The mails will follow us wherever we go. Remember me to all inquiring friends." (24)

From the schooner *Recruit* Oliver writes again to his sister on January 7. "I now take the last opportunity of addressing you for some time as we shall leave between this and morning for *Dixie* (italics added). Since I last wrote you I have seen the most sorrowful time that I have ever witnessed. Henry D. Sexton died this noon of jaundice. He came on board the boat the same time I did and bunked under me until day before yesterday. When he came aboard he looked much as I have seen Alonzo. Duane Brown died and was buried yesterday. This is last chance [to mail this note, he thought, so he signed it] Brother Oliver." (25)

"Too late. I may have another chance. Sexton was a little worse Sunday, but not so bad, that he was around. He said that if he were at home he should be sitting in the rocking chair writing but as there was no place to sit down he kept his bunk. I prevailed upon the Dr. to have his bunk changed to a more comfortable one Sunday night and

Monday morning I talked with him. I thought that his mind wandered a little. I left him about two. In the morning he was not conscious and remained nearly all day in the stupid state. About three he had a spasm and rushed out of his bunk. I had no control of him as he could handle me like a child." (25)

"It was very difficult to get anyone to take hold of him as they seemed to be afraid of him. It took five of us to hold him and keep him from tearing his face with his hands. He would bite at us and froth to the mouth, making a horrid noise all of the time. I stayed over him twenty four hours in succession before his death. I never saw anything so horrible in my life and if it had not been for the sailors I do not know what I should have done. He never has had any care upon the boat from the Dr." (25)

"He used to come around in the morning and ask how he did – tell him to cover up and keep warm – perhaps give him a pill. He had only his own blanket and lay down upon the lower deck where it was very cold, damp, and close and where it was an impossibility to keep warm. I used to give him my blanket when I was on guard and when he could not get warm got into the berth with him. I tried all I could to have the Dr. convey him to the hospital Sunday when I began to see that he was getting worse. He also begged him to be carried there and he finally promised that he might go the next day, but the next day was too late. With even ordinary care he might have got well in a short time. Do not mention this to anyone whatever. I never felt so bad in my life as when I saw that there was no hope of his recovery. It seemed as though I had lost the only friend I had with me. But thanks be to God what is our loss is his gain. He was prepared for the final change. Only the day before he was taken unconscious he remarked that there was only one thing that supported him during his illness at the hospital, and now when he got low-spirited, 'The religion of Jesus Christ was his sustainer.'" (25)

This is the only comment that Oliver makes about religion. However, he carried a Bible and the person that now owns the Bible purchased it at a yard sale in Maryland. He speculates that someone probably found it on the battle field after Oliver died.

Oliver continues, "Duane went to the hospital Sunday with the measles and the Typhus Fever set in, and carried him off. He had the best of care at the hospital, good as or better than he could have had at home. Everyone that has been there speaks of the excellent care, accommodations, food etc. that they get there." (25)

"I have been upon guard since I came upon the schooner and when I am off I go around and get water, cover up, and wait upon the sick in various ways. *This is not my duty as a soldier – but it is my duty as a man* (italics added). The Dr. often comes to me when he wants someone to carry medicine to any man when the ward masters are busy. The consequence of this is that I fare very well as far as food is concerned for if I get two rations it is all right. We have good tea which is a great treat." (25)

"I got another man to write to Sexton's wife for I could not do it at the time. Sexton died easy but unconscious. I telegraphed this morning. Lieut. Chase said a man in the 23 rd Mass. had the top of his head blown off Monday." (25)

Henry D. Sexton was married to Harriet Eliza Barber in 1861 at Windsor, in Hartford County, Connecticut. Henry was born about 1832 and his wife Harriet was born about 1837. (2)

"We put all Henry's things in a box and sent by express. They would not let me help pay the expenses because they said I had done my part by being with him all the time. I have received no letter from you since the one dated the 22 nd of Dec. and only one from anyone in that time." (25)

"Send postage stamps as soon as you find where I am. I have sent to the P. O. but cannot get any there." (25)

Oliver writing on the January 9 on board the Schooner *Recruit*. "My memorandum was sent with Sexton's things by mistake; therefore I will keep one on paper and send every opportunity. Our schooner did not leave as expected. The very last chance to send ashore we hear as often as three times a day. [We had] two cases of measles today. One has anticipated it and brought it on by his own worrying when he had no symptoms. [Another man] had another of his fits; is better today." (26)

"I have great confidence in our new doctors. Two days ago, many were getting worse; now all are getting better. I had the first all night sleep upon the boat. Pity we did not have the doctors before and have something done for Sexton." (26)

On January 10 Oliver continued this letter. "On guard through the day, but was not called at night. I am in the best of health with a good appetite. I eat two rations every meal – thanks to the nurses for that. I help them take care of the sick and they give me extra rations. I saw another case of measles this morning broke out finally." (26)

Chapter 7—Fortress Monroe-Still Aboard the Schooner

"The doctor says we shall be towed out as soon as the fog rises which is very thick. The weather is very warm and sultry. The sick are much better; none dangerous. We are going to stop at Fortress Monroe. (26)

Dr. Green (head surgeon) has me get things for the sick very often. I like it as it gives me something to do. The Zouave drum major, a Frenchman who cannot understand English, is quite bad off with rheumatism. He got up and tried to get back but could not. I with another carried him. The Dr. talks with him in French. I have a sore throat, caused I think by smoking strong tobacco." (26)

On Saturday, January 11 he is telling Abbie that they "weighed anchor about 9 o'clock A.M. [The ship] was tugged out of the harbor into the [Chesapeake] Bay. There was a light breeze and she started off finely but the breeze soon died down and we hardly moved. The cook made his soup from salt water and no body could eat it. Complaints made to the Dr. and complaint to the General is in circulation signed by many of the soldiers. I do not approve of it; think it will amount to shucks." (26)

"The Dr. is the man to remedy the evil. [I] did not feel well this morning. Stiff breeze towards night rocking the vessel. One of the sailors sea-sick. Let go anchor for the night. Lost a gold dollar. Agreed to stand guard for a man that did not feel well." (25)

A short note in this letter was dated Sunday, January 12 th continued. "Weighed anchor early but made slow progress. Stiff breeze in the P.M. Passed the Zouaves this P.M. There is not a time but that we cannot go on more sails. Let go anchor at night. Great argument upon religion this evening. Sick all doing well." (26)

On Monday January 13 he writes, "Good wind; arrived at Fortress Monroe about 11 o'clock. It is a very busy place. The fleet here is one forest of masts. All hands are ordered to make up their beds as the brigade surgeon is expected on board soon. A chance to send and receive letters now offered. I presume the well ones will join their

opinion among the passengers is that we shall proceed to Richmond. We are just as likely to go somewhere else. I have heard nothing from our regiment since about 4 hours after Sexton's death. I am the only one from our Co. here, but I am now acquainted with nearly all on board and enjoy it very much, perhaps more than with our own company. I care very little whether I leave here or not, but I presume it will make no difference whether I care or not." (26)

"The boat rocks so it is almost impossible to write. The sea is quite rough. The weather is a little stormy. Orders are passed over to weigh anchor and go outside. I suppose they are afraid of contagious diseases getting into the army. We have had a good deal of fun this morning seeing the Dr. shoot at ducks with his revolver. Write soon; direct to Fortress Monroe until you find where we are." (26)

Oliver writes about the Rip Raps that are; "a low rocky island looking like a stone quarry upon the other side of the river channel from the Fortress and has a very important position in the military point of view. The Fortress looks like a large reservoir, something like the one in Hartford only large enough to cover over six acres of land, the top and sides made permanent with cement." He ends his letter abruptly by saying, "both doctors are seasick." (26)

Chapter 8--Battle of Roanoke Island

On January 19 Oliver writes, "We left Fortress Monroe yesterday morning and after a rough passage arrived here about noon today.... At 12 o'clock the waves swept over the deck and carried away the ship's boats, the vessel rocking at the same time so violently as to rock some out of their berths and send all the wood and boxes tumbling over the deck. The wind broke the loose gaff (a piece of round timber 8 inches through) and sent it flying over the deck. The boilers (large heavy copper which are kept on the stove continually) of coffee were overturned and the boiling liquid sent streaming over the deck. The confusion was general, many falling out of their berths, others falling flat upon the floor." (27)

One boiler fell down the hatchway making casualties too numerous to mention. I was fast asleep when I heard the racket and such laughing and enraging I never heard before. One thing was falling here, another there – those that were in their berths rolling from one side to the other (that is those that were lucky enough to keep in) and those that were out holding on to the sides. There was no danger, only a little rolling and a little fun. The fleet is nearly all in safe, only one schooner with part of the 27 th Mass. and one with the Zouaves.... The former are supposed to be lost but there is hope that the latter may yet arrive. The steamer *Zouave* with two Mass. Companies ran upon a rock and foundered – all saved. A boat with some of the 11 th Penn. was picked up – one man drowned – three died from exposure. One Colonel and two other staff officers lost together with a boat crew. Most of the casualties were occasioned by the storm while we were at the Fortress instead of the sea last night. There was but a little wind last night but the sea here is always rough, and the entrance to the inlet is very rocky and the channel crooked. There is a schooner sunk outside upon the shoals. I believe that there were one or two regulars lost from her. Of course, we have not been in long enough to get the particulars, but I think that this is as near correct as can be got at, at the present time." (27)

"I have heard a rumor that the 8 th. Conn. was wrecked and part saved upon boats, but I can find no foundation for the rumor. The coast here is so low and sandy that it is difficult to distinguish a short distance off where it and the water meet. It is the most desolate looking place I ever saw. The Zouave drum major died night before last … and his body left at Annapolis. He was a commissioned officer and had no business to come with us on the hospital ship. The band to which he belonged was dissolved 2 weeks before he started but he was getting $60.00 a month which was too good a berth to give up without a struggle. He never was well enough to come aboard. He died of rheumatic fever. I have been troubled with sea sickness for the last two or three days which is anything but pleasant." (27)

"Last night I could not set up but slept very soundly when in my berth while everyone else was rolling about the deck. I am well enough now that we are in port and have a good appetite and can bear [to eat] salt pork without gagging. I presume that I can go to my regiment tomorrow if I wish. I would be very well contented here taking care of the sick if it were not for that horrid sea sickness, for I think that we have better accommodations here than with the regiment. Direct Fortress Monroe, Co. A, 8 th. Regt. Conn. Vol., Burnside's Division. Write soon and often. I shall get your letters sometime. Is Mr. Stockwell living? Is Scott Humphrey married? … Love to Father, Mother, Grandmother and all inquiring friends." (27)

"I again take my pen to address a few lines to you [on January 26], thinking you would like to receive letters of different dates although at the same time. We still remain in the Inlet as when I last wrote you but are expecting soon to go over the inside bar and land somewhere in *Dixie(italics added)*. Today is the first fair day since our arrival and for the last week we have had a terrible storm at times endangering many of the fleet by causing the vessels to drag anchor and to smash into each other. For the last three or four days there has hardly been a time but what there were two or three signals of distress to be seen flying but of course no relie[f] could be given then until after the abatement of the storm. I think that there has been no accident to any person happened and none very disastrous to the shipping. There was a regiment put ashore here and pitched their tents but the wind drove the sea over the beach and they had to gain solid ground by wading through the water about four feet deep. It was rather tedious considering the state of the weather but they went through it all safe. It is four weeks today since I came on board ship and I am now finally very anxious to again place my feet on *terra firma (italics added)*although we enjoy ourselves quite well on ship board." (28)

"A gun boat arrived about an hour since from Fortress Monroe and we expect she has letters for us. We shall soon know. There is but four companies aboard this steamer, *viz*. A, D, F and I. The rest are aboard of a bark and a schooner; I think four companies upon the former and two upon the latter. The signal corps was given up as lost but this morning it is said that the bark can be made out outside the breakers. The signal corps is detached from the different regiments to give signals in time of an engagement. I do not know whether the Zouaves are lost or not – certain it is they are not in; such things are kept from us. I think they are sent somewhere else to garrison some fort already in our hands, because they dare not trust them in an engagement with their officers for they have sworn revenge upon them. This is only my opinion." (28)

"The weather here at the present is quite cold but nothing like a northern winter. Eatables are brought from the sutlers [a civilian provisions to an army post often with a

ship or base] boat but are held at rather high prices; apples $.05 to 10 cents each, figs .02 to .05 each, raisins $.20 per pint, Oysters, Turkey, Peaches, tomatoes, etc in quart cans from $1.50 to $2.00 each, Current, Plum, Raspberry, Grape, Pear and Strawberry jellies $1.50 to $2.00, sweet crackers $.15 per dozen and everything else in the same proportion." (28)

"The steamer brought no letters for our Regt. The steamer *L. R. Spaulding* from Port Royal to New York lay in here through the storm. I do not know as they will let her leave until after we get away. We have received no mail since we first arrived and no mail is allowed to leave so that we are pretty effectually shut out from the world." (27)

"The fleet is composed of over 100 sails in all but a few, perhaps half a dozen, have sunk or been wrecked. This is a large steamer and they have been throwing ballast out of her to make her as light draught as possible." (28)

"Is Mr. Stockwell living? I heard a short time since that the Dr. had given him over. Alonzo wrote me that he was going to move in the spring. I think he will do well to keep Public House." (28)

"Is Mr. Holbrook going to leave Tarrifville? [a small town near Simsbury] I have heard so somewhere. I have forgotten where. How do Mr. Sexton's people take Henry's death? Have they sent to Annapolis after his body? How do Mr. Brown's people take Duane's death? Love to all." (28)

"I felt inclined not to write you because I received no letter from you in the last mail, but thinking that you will do better in the future, and knowing that you would naturally feel anxious to know how I am prospering, I have concluded to write you a few lines [on this day of February 19 from Roanoke Island]. I did not leave the old *Chasseur* until last Friday for the reason that I was indisposed, and the regiment had not pitched their tents and it was rather damp lying in the open air, especially for the one who was not well. It was with feelings of delight that I again set my feet upon *terra firma* (italics added) after having been upon the briny deep for over six weeks. I read in the paper that we had terrible sufferings while there; perhaps it was so but I did not see it. The newspapers were short of news from Burnside's expedition and manufactured that for the occasion. Perhaps it had a good effect in keeping the public mind from a most cursing the Gen. for the delay as he had an excuse. I do not believe that he was delayed at all by the storm, if so only a short time." (29)

"The [Roanoke] island is almost covered with forests, mostly pitch pine, with now and then a clearing of five or six acres with a small house upon it. The land after it is cleared up is very easy of cultivation and produces light crops of corn and sweet potatoes. The forests are perfect jungle, it being almost an impossibility [sic] for man and beast to get through them. There are many swamps upon the island which are a perfect mat of green briars about 10 feet high and so thick that there is no guard kept next to them, which is the same as saying that they cannot be passed through. How that any force under the Gen.'s command could have taken the place with its numerous fortifications together with its natural advantages for repelling an attack is a wonder to many. The Georgians say that the North Carolina troops did not fight but played into our hands." (29)

"I don't know that they are half right for a large number now appear to be decided Unionists and quite a number have enlisted into the Mass. Regiments. Most of the prisoners were taken on board ship yesterday; as a general thing they are a tough looking

set although there are some fine looking men amongst them. We are very glad to get rid of them for some of them, especially the Georgians, might be troublesome in case of an attack. They have barracks erected capable of containing 15,000 troops besides those that were burned at the upper fort. There are five forts or fortifications mounting 40 pieces of cannon of large caliber. After the battle the boys begin to look around for something to stay their stomachs as many of them had thrown away their 3 days rations of salt horse and hard tack at the beginning of the engagement." (29)

"They found hogs, chickens, calves, sweet potatoes etc. in abundance which they made the most of. Any way if you take a stroll over the island you will find hog skins and innards etc. scattered all about in considerable quantities. The Zouaves went and killed a man's chickens, dressed them, then carried them in and made the owner cook them for them. Was not that rather cheeky? I have written nothing about the battle for the papers will be full of it. Gen Burnside said the 8 th Conn. held as responsibility fast as any upon the field although they did not have to fire a gun. His orders were to hold it even if it took every last man. At one time it looked as though the brunt of the battle was coming upon them, but the enemy were flanked and turned in another direction." (29)

"Our camp is situated in a very pleasant locality just out of the woods in the place where the *secesh* (italics added) had cleared it for us, and is protected from the cold winds and hot sun. (29)

Secesh is someone in favor of the attempt by the Southern States to withdraw from the Union. (Oliver uses this term several times in his letters to his sister).

"It has rained every day since I came ashore until yesterday when it put off until night; then it commenced anew and rained until morning. It does not rain today but is cloudy and looks like a shower. It wants a little rain to settle the ground. Orders were given Sunday night to have three days rations cooked and the regiment was to leave Monday morning in light marching order for some place." (29)

"All those that were unfit for duty were looked up Sunday night and every one expected to leave in the morning or before. The Lieut. and Capt. both sent for me unbeknown to each other and told me that as I had been sick so recently I should not be able to go and wanted me to stay in their tents and in case the Regiment should not come back to see about packing up their things. It was all very well for them but I wanted to go with the Regiment and try my luck in an engagement. Each of them told me as it was such very wet weather and we should have to lie outdoors in the water it would surely bring on the fever and ague." (29)

"I did not tell the Capt. that the Lieut. had spoken to me first about it for I thought I could see to both. The 5 th. R. I. Regiment has left in light marching order. No one knows where for. I am well and hearty. It is stated here, and by the officers, that the Gov. of N. C. has given up the state to Uncle Sam and will render what assistance is in his power to drive the rebels out of it. You will learn the truth of it by the papers." (29)

"I was much surprised to hear that Sam Terry is married. Give my love to Father, Mother and Grandmother. Respects to all. Write soon and often. Do not wait to receive letters from me" (29)

Oliver is writing his sister on February 27 from Roanoke Island. "Yours of the 13 th was received last Monday, but as I had just written a letter directed to Mother I have delayed writing to you until now. The mail steamer was delayed several days upon the

sound at Hatteras to the no small disgust of us as we expected to hear each day that she had been got off and had arrived. But as all things must end sooner or later, so our murmuring came to an end at last and the long expected mail arrived. You could tell by the looks of the faces who had and who had not received a portion, the former were smiling and jovial while the visage of the latter were lengthened to an alarming extent. I received four letters and one paper; not as many as I expected but enough so I did not complain. I have nothing particular to write as camp life is not very productive of news. The weather is quite cool; it usually rains every night but is clear in the daytime. My health never was better than at present." (30)

"I can eat at least a dozen stewed hard tack every day besides drinking over a quart of coffee and any quantity of salt horse [nautical slang for salt beef or salt junk]. The Gov. of N. C. sent a small schooner with a flag of truce requesting Gen. Burnside to give him 10 days to recall his troops and if at the end of that time any troops remain under arms he will use his influence to proceed against them with the force sufficient to drive them from the state. Gen. Burnside is said to have granted the request – if so we shall expect no fighting for ten days at least. Capt. Fowler got into a fuss with the Lieut. Col. at Annapolis and sent in his resignation. It has just come back from Washington accepted and he is going home. I think he would be glad to stay as his company thinks everything of him. He was the best military man in the regiment and should have been Maj. instead of Capt. Appleton. The only thing I know against him is that he did not come from Norwich." (30)

"Every indication of a protracted war seems nearly obliterated and I think if the Lord is willing, and the creek is not high, we shall be in O*ld Conn [italics added]*. by the first of Sept. I should think you had quite a gathering of young people the other evening." (30)

"Give my respects to all inquiring friends. I quote from your letter; 'Julia Goodwin was not there.' You appear to be much interested in the welfare of J. G. I do not see why you should mention her in particular as not being there. Were all the young people of Hop Meadow there but her? I am very sorry to hear that Mary Bidwell is so low. I had thought of writing inquiring as to her health. All Simsbury seems to be getting married; who would have thought that Sam, Terry and Henry Noble would be married in the same month. I will never be surprised at anything hereafter." (30)

"Give my love to Grandmother, Father, Mother, etc. Respects to all inquiring friends. I received your postage stamps and was very thankful for them. You can judge how many letters I write for I have but three stamps left. The Sutler has got some so you need not send any more at present." (30)

"As we are expecting to leave this place soon and an opportunity being offered to send letters today, [so, on this 4 th. Day of March] I thought I would write a few lines [from Roanoke Island] to keep you posted as to my whereabouts and keep you informed as to the state of my health." (31)

"Ever since we came here we have been expecting to move every few days, and the orders here have been to keep three days rations cooked in advance as to be ready to start at a moments warning. Last night we had orders to strike tents at reveille in the morning which is beat at six A.M." (31)

"You can bet that there was some early rising this morning if never before. All gathered their traps together, packing knapsacks, rolling blankets etc. But when the reveille was beat the order to strike tents was not given as had been expected, and it was shortly given out that we should not be able to go aboard this forenoon on account of the wind which was blowing a strong northeaster at the time." (31)

"At noon our rations were dealt out, and our ammunition was looked to, to see if we had a full supply." (31)

"The companies that came to the *Sentinel viz*. C. E. H. and K were ordered to get ready to strike tents in 35 minutes. It has been over an hour and the drum has not beat yet. I do not know what occasions the delay. I think in all probability we shall not go aboard before morning although we are prepared to hear the order any moment to 'strike tents in fifteen minutes.' I have just stopped writing to take some cartridges from the orderly to make up my forty rounds. As to our destination we are entirely ignorant, some say one place – some another, but none know. I was rather disappointed yesterday by not getting more mail, it being the first mail that the Regt. has received since we left Annapolis but that I have received as much as four letters besides a number of papers. Yesterday I received no letters and only one paper." (31)

"We had quite a number of resignations in our regiment within a short time, besides rumors of plenty more. Capt Fowler, Capt Nash and a couple of Lieuts. have gone home. It is rumored that the Col. and Chaplain are both going home, also several others. The reason assigned for the resignation of the Col. was that Gen. Burnside had given him particular fits about the way he had conducted the regiment." (31)

"The Q. M. [Quarter Master] had to take his share of it because the new clothes were not ready for the Regiment. The Regiment is quite ragged at present and looks quite shabby; some were not careful of their clothes, and some were made of poor stuff. Gen. Burnside said 'he did not want a ragged regiment following him around, and if they expected to be his body guard, they must be better clothed.' The Q. M. borrowed about 250 pairs of pants of the R. I. Regiment and let those whose clothes were nearly torn off have them. The Gen. looks out for his men and woe be to the officer under him that tries to rough it on them. When we first came here we had some salt junk [bad meat] that was cooked up for two or three days rations and put hot into barrels, and before we ate it up it was a little tainted around the bones. The Gen. found it out and gave the commissary to understand if it happened again he could march. His men were not going to eat stinking meat. Health excellent. Weather warm. Write often. Our letters are often kept back by order of the Gen." (31)

Chapter 9--Approaching New Berne, N. C.

On March 11 writing from on board the steamer *Chasseur* Oliver says to Abbie, "As we are about moving for some place we know not where, I thought I would pencil a few lines to you to keep you as well posted as possible. We left camp (rather broke up camp) last Wednesday and were conveyed bag and baggage aboard this steamer bound for someplace, rumor says Newbern, but it is as likely to be some other place. Saturday, orders from Gen. Burnside were received that the 1 st., 2 nd and 3 rd brigades should hold themselves in readiness to march on an hours notice, each man to carry one woolen blanket, one days rations in his haversack (two others to be cooked and carried in bulk,) 40 rounds of ammunition in the cartridge boxes and twenty more in pockets. Each man

is to be held responsible for his blanket and the excitement of an engagement or of a charge will not be deemed a reasonable excuse for their loss. We are eager for a start and shall probably go today and we expect to make a hole somewhere when we move. It is likely that the fleet and land forces will act in conjunction and while the former peppers them in front, we shall attack them in the rear. Sunday night we heard of the taking of Nashville with 8,000 prisoners, whether it is true or not we do not know as we have heard no confirmation. We want to do a big thing here as well as the army in Tennessee, and if we succeed in cutting railroad communication between north and south secession it will be a big thing. There will doubtless be a large number killed on both sides, but will it not be a good time to die? A man better die fighting for his country than at home. There is not the dread of death here as there; but I expect like everyone else to come out alive. I have yet to see the man that did not. It is much the best way on the men to go into an action with high hopes and good spirits instead of feeling low and depressed." (32)

"There has been some talk of enlisting in the regulars. The recruiting officer has been around in some regiments and many have enlisted. He has not been here and probably not in this division, but doubtless will be. I should like very much to enlist but will not until I hear from home, and know what you think about it. As for me, I should like it better than anything else I can do. Write what Father and Mother think about it when you receive this." (32)

"There was a soldier shot last night in the upper part of the thigh. It was about 11 o'clock when a pistol which another man accidentally lost from his berth; the jar fired off. The ball is left in him and will probably not be taken out, as it is only a flesh wound and nothing serious." (32)

"I have received no mail for nearly two weeks and am very anxious to receive one. We shall, I think, start before getting one as the anchor is being weighed at the present time, and in a few moments we shall be off. If we pass Hatteras we may have an opportunity of sending letters and perhaps receive mail. We have started, and are now underway." (32)

"[My] respects to all. Write soon and often." (32)

Oliver is writing near Newbern on March 16. He writes, "your letter was received while on board of the *Chasseur* Wednesday night. It had been laying at the Hatteras Inlet and was taken aboard by one of the fleet and delivered while we lay by for the night. You ought to have seen that boat about eleven o'clock, every light occupied by at least a dozen different persons each anxious to read the news from home." (33)

"We landed Friday A.M. in a small cove and immediately commenced marching up the river. We followed the beach for about two miles through the sand over shoes and then struck off across the fields. In a short time we came up to an encampment of cavalry which had been evacuated but a short time. Some of the boys fell out and helped themselves to chickens, ham, biscuits etc. We traveled till after sundown over the muddiest road (if road it could be called) that I ever saw. We passed several farmhouses on our journey but most of the road lay through the woods." (33)

"About the middle of the afternoon we came to the first battery, which had just been evacuated and the barracks set on fire, which were still burning as we passed. We found out afterward that if we had been a day later (sic) [earlier] the rebels would have had their forces there and mounted and it would have taken the lives of many men to have dislodged them for it is a very strong point. The fortification is a mile long, with a large

ditch in front protected in the rear by breast works of huge trees felled top of one another. It would have been almost impossible to have flanked them and they would undoubtedly have had to be charged upon to have dislodged them." (33)

"It had been raining some all day and after we had stopped for the night it commenced in good earnest, which was the rule, with slight variations, for the night. We were allowed fires which, thanks to the pitch pine wood, could burn as well wet as dry. I can tell you that after 12 o'clock very little sleeping was done by the soldiers in this division. About 6 A.M. we started, wet as rats, but due to the southern climate, not cold and our blankets [were] as heavy as 8 ought to be." (33)

Chapter 10—Battle at New Bern, N. C.

"We had not proceeded but a short distance when we heard the rattle of musketry and the booming of cannon, telling us that the action had commenced in earnest. As we advanced toward the battery, the balls rung tunes over our heads and occasionally played a little nearer our heads than we cared for. Philo Matson, from out on Firetown mountains, was in the rank ahead of me and was much frightened; he would have fell out if possible. The orders were given to fall down, right up, fix bayonets, fire. As soon as I had fired, I head Philo say, "Oh, I'm killed", turned and saw a slight flesh would on the top of his head. I certainly could not help laughing to see him. He turned to the orderly and asked him if he thought he was killed and, when he found out that he was still in the land of the living, took his gun and made himself missing as soon as possible." (33)

"Companies G and H were sent out as skirmishers while we lay here upon the ground. Capt. Epham of Co. H was wounded in the shoulder at this time; it is feared mortally. Howes Phelps from Co. B was killed. At this time, word came that the 21 st Mass. had charged upon the battery and were repulsed. We were ordered on double quick through a ravine until we reached the railroad where it was a high embankment where we halted to form. The balls, meanwhile, were flying as thick as hailstorms. The rebels fired one volley which wounded several and killed two from our Regiment. We were then ordered to fall and by mistake our colors fell too, and the rebels, deceived by our gray coats, took us to be rebel reinforcements arriving by railroad and ceased firing upon us; this mistake probably saved many lives. When we started from there we went double quick to charge their battery, but as they did not like the look of cold steel they left in a hurry. The color guard immediately ran up to the battery and planted the colors which were the first upon the battery." (33)

"The U. S. flag had two bullet holes shot through it while being planted. We were ordered to file right towards the other battery and were drawn up in a line of battle, and the two flank companies again sent out as skirmishers. In a few moments, a Gen's aid came with his horse upon a run, and asked, 'why did we not charge upon that battery?' saying that we were wanted there very much. The Col. told him to go to Gen. Parke; that he was the man to give orders. The Gen. ordered the left wing of the brigade to charge and the right to flank them (the enemy) if they attempted to retreat to the right, which we were much afraid of as by this means they would get possession of the first battery again, and if the Rhode Island regiment was driven back that we should reinforce them. Three different times we prepared to charge, but each time some circumstance

happened that prevented it. As we lay upon the ground the balls whistled over our heads in abundance but did not do our regiment much injury. I think there is but three killed and about a dozen wounded in the 8 th. The 11 th suffered more than we when lying upon the ground, for the balls simply whistled over our heads and hit right in amongst them." (33)

"Capt. Lee from Hartford was killed and two of his company by the same ball. Our loss is about 100 killed and 200 or 300 wounded. There were two wounded in our company, one in the wrist and one in the head – neither serious. I had no idea of the noise created in battle by the artillery and the musketry until I heard it. It was like one continuous roll of thunder for perhaps half an hour without the least intermission, and then perhaps after a few seconds another more deafening, if possible, than before." (33)

"After the taking of the second battery, we took the railroad for Newbern. We came upon three *secesh* (italics added) camps about three or four miles from the batteries situated within about a quarter of a mile of each other. The camps had just been left; the principal Q.M. and Commissary tents were in flames, but the barracks and sheds for the horses and two commissary tents with a lot of provisions and horse feed were left in good condition. There were lots of clothes left that had never been worn also double barrel shot guns, carpet bags full of trinkets, letters, daguerreotypes etc. I have read about a dozen of the letters but find nothing interesting in them and of no interest in themselves except as specimens of poor spelling. We marched past the camp one half mile but were ordered back to camp for the night." (33)

Daguerreotype is an early photograph produced on a silver or silver-coated copper plate.

"The forward part of our division went to Newbern and captured several thousand prisoners. 120 car loads left at the approach of our troops. The rebels burnt all the public buildings and any others that they thought would be of any value to us. It was the grandest sight I ever saw. It looked like a needless sacrifice of property, but I suppose it was better than to have it fall into our hands. We have taken 60 pieces of artillery in the different fortifications besides many military stores. I suppose the next stand of the rebels will be at Goldsboro where we shall probably attack them in a few days. There is no one of your acquaintances killed in the battle" (33)

"Alonzo wrote me some time ago, asking Lieut. March if Duane's money had been sent. I wrote him that it was sent to Melvin Goddard, North Canton, Conn. The reason why it was sent there was that Philo Matson told them it was best and he was the only one that knew anything about his family, in the company. I was upon the hospital boat at the time." (33)

"There were a few of our boys that fell out before the battle and have thus made themselves the laughing stock of the company. I tell you it does not play well to play coward here. We have been living some since we came here upon what the *secesh* (italics added) left. We have found molasses, sugar, rice, coffee etc. which we cook ourselves. Just imagine a soldier having his griddlecakes for breakfast, fresh meat for dinner, boiled rice and coffee for supper and you have an idea of the way we are living at present." (33)

"There is one thing I forgot to tell you. It is that in the Rhode Island 4 th there is a woman that goes with them wherever they go. I saw her first upon the Island, but have seen her often since. She dresses in bloomer costume with black pants, a closely fitting bodice with a skirt coming nearly to the knees, men's boots with her pants tucked inside

and a nice velvet hat. There, that is the first time I ever described a lady's dress and I hope you will not criticize it too much. I saw her with the Regiment Thursday straining through the mud with her blanket on her shoulder, equal to the best of them. There was one of the officers' aides riding one horse and leading another one when he came up to where she was. She jumped on to the horse as easy as any man. It was the first time I ever saw a woman ride a horse like a man." (33)

"In the morning when we got up to start, the Regiment formed in the road close by her; she was ahead carrying the flag. She went with them into the battle field and ran some very near chances of being hit, the shell of one bursting close to her side. She begged the Col. to let her kill one of the wounded rebels to pay for her husband being wounded. She looks, a little way off, like a young girl of twelve or fourteen years. She was out in the three months campaign. Her husband is now the Lieut. he was orderly when she was married. There are not many men with more pluck than she has." (33)

"There came into camp last night about 35 contrabands and more coming in continually." (33)

"I left your letter with my knapsack on the boat and cannot now tell what you wrote. I did not like the idea of having the secessist (sic) read my letters so did not bring them with me. George Lewis sends respects." (33)

"Give my love to Grandmother. Love to all. My postage stamps are on the boat." (33)

Chapter 11--Operations against Fort Macon

Writing this time from Carolina City on April 6 Oliver has this to say, "I don't know but you think I have forgotten you in delaying writing for so long a time, but the truth is all our movements of late have been in light marching order, everything being left behind except blankets and accoutrements. The last I wrote you, I believe, was dated Newbern where we stayed until the 18 th when we again went aboard of the steamer, destination unknown. We landed up the creek about 7 miles; the same one that we landed at the mouth of before, and again took to land. Here we remained until 5 ½ o'clock, without having had any rations for one and one half days, when 35 men from A Company were picked out for a forced march of a dozen miles." (34)

"There was the 4 th R. I. and the 8 th. Conn. It was the hardest march I ever saw; mud over shoes, water often knee deep, our haversacks empty, stomachs ditto. We arrived at deserted *secesh* (italics added) Camp barracks about 9 ½ o'clock where we made up fires and kept ourselves quite comfortable for the night. Some of our men were so completely exhausted that as soon as they got to camp they fell upon the ground and could not be aroused. We again took up our line of march about 11 o'clock the next day, leaving a few companies to guard the barracks, on the road towards Morehead and Beaufort. We had proceeded but a short distance when we were halted and a day's rations of hardtack and about ½ gill of whiskey given to each man. Our march was rather hard for the reason that we were so stiffened up by our last night's tramp, but as we only marched nine miles we stood it pretty well. I was put upon picket the first night which I did not relish very much after the fatigue of marching, but lucky for me I had a pair of dry stockings in my pocket which were worth their weight in gold at such a time." (34)

Hardtack was a biscuit made of flour with other simple ingredients, and issued to Union soldiers throughout the war. Hardtack crackers made up a large portion of a soldier's

daily ration. It was square or sometimes rectangular in shape with small holes baked into it. Large factories in the north baked hundreds of hardtack crackers every day, packed them in wooden crates and shipped them out by wagon or rail. Usually, the hardtack did not get to the soldiers until months after it had been made. By that time, they were very hard. Soldiers were usually allowed six to eight crackers for a three-day ration. There were a number of ways to eat them. Soldiers would crumble them into coffee or soften them in water and fry the hardtack with some bacon grease.

"It was the 22 nd when we arrived at Carolina City where we have remained in some shanties of boards which we have picked from some old dilapidated dwelling. The *sesech* (italics added) burn the principal buildings before they left. There has been a splendid vessel burnt near the fort since we have been there to prevent its falling into our hands. I have been out on picket 7 miles from camp with two day's rations this last week and like it very much. We traded off our hardtack and salt horse for sweet potatoes and hoecake and had a fine mess of greens. When I got back, Co. A was on the other side of the sounds, except for a few sick ones who were left behind, and as our tents had come we were to pitch and floor them and get into camp once more. We expect the Co. back today but they may not be in, in several days. Our Regiment is pretty well split up; two companies at Morehead, one at Beaufort, and ours over on the Island." (33)

"Fort Macon is situated upon the extreme west of the island and completely hemmed in by our forces, both by land and by water. Our gunboats will make an attack soon, assisted by the artillery, if they do not surrender. It seems a pity that they should attempt to hold it when they themselves know they cannot and it will probably cost them a great many lives. The garrison consists of 300 men which cannot hold it a great while against our mortars." (34)

"I have received all your letters, the last one from Father. I was much rejoiced to receive a letter from him. I was very sorry to hear that Uncle J. A. Tuller's house was burnt. The deaths of Wm. Mather and wife; were they not sudden?" (34)

He closes with, "I will write a better letter next time." (34)

Chapter 13—Bouge Island, N. C.

On April 17 Oliver writes to "Dear Sister." "Yours was received in due time and, of course read with eagerness. I had heard of the burning of J. A. Tuller's house, but did not know how it caught fire." (35)

"The weather here is very warm in the daytime with the exception of a cool sea breeze which makes it quite comfortable." (35)

"Some of the companies are detailed each night to help build entrenchments and I think that by three or four days at farthest we shall open fire upon the fort. The mortars and field pieces are nearly all in position, and part of the howitzers." (35)

"I do not see what object P. A. Matson can have in representing me sick and 'will probably never be able to see Conn. again.' He knows that since I left Annapolis, with the bare exception of a short time upon the *Chasseur*, I have been perfectly healthy. I do not think that there is one in the company but what has had sick spells caused by exposure. I may not live to get home, but I think I stand as good a chance as anyone in the company, P. A. Matson to the contrary notwithstanding." (35)

"Did you not receive a letter mailed Newbern written on a large sheet of bill paper? It was some that the *Secesh (*italics added*)* left and we found. I wrote one to Ariel which he received; you can get that of him if he has not torn it up and if you can read it, by having patience to pick out bad pencil marks, you will find as much of a description of the battle as I could give. A person in the ranks knows very little about a battle; all he knows is to obey orders. I felt very different upon the battle than I had expected. There is not the dread of death that one naturally expects. P. A. Matson was in the file ahead of me and I could not help laughing to see him skulk and dodge, trying to fall out, When he was hit he fell upon the ground saying, "Oh God, I'm killed. Orderly, be I killed?" I never was more pleased at any thing in my life. That shot was worth a great deal to him for it was nothing but a scratch at most." (35)

"I have sent with Lieut. Marsh's package $25.00. I wish you would call on Mrs. W. P. Marsh and get it." (35)

"Capt. Hoyt is sick and at the hospital in Morehead; afraid he is going to have a run of fever. I have been a little down with a cold for a week or ten days, but since I have got into camp I am all right. I am afraid that some of my letters are miscarried because I did not put on the count. What is Alonzo's boy's name? Give my best to all inquiring friends." (35)

Alonzo Grove Case's family group sheet shows Alonzo's baby born on April 1, 1862 was named Alonzo Chaffee Case. (2)

Oliver ends this letter with a plea in the post script. "P. S. If you send me anything, send paper, envelopes, pen and ink." (35)

On April 28 once again Oliver is writing from Bougue Island. It has been 11 days since he wrote his last letter to Abbie so he starts with, "It has been sometime since I have written a letter to you and, thinking you would like to hear from me, I take this opportunity of addressing a few lines to you. The Regiment has been hard at work ever since we arrived here, throwing up entrenchments to protect the artillery and infantry." (36)

"The work was completed Thursday night and the bombardment commenced early the next morning and continued without intermission until four in the P.M., our Regiment meanwhile lying behind the breastworks while a perfect rain of shot and shell came upon all sides of them, many times caving the banks upon them so it was necessary to dig one another out with shovels. Several of our men were hit by balls rolling into the trench upon them, but none were wounded. The artillery lost one killed and two wounded." (36)

"The rebels came out with a white flag about four o'clock and a messenger was sent for. Gen. Burnside, also, arrived in the evening. Capitulations were agreed upon before morning and early the next day the *Stars and Stripes* (italics added) were run up by the 4 th R. I. Regiment. The 8 th Conn. were not very well suited to do all the work and have the 4 th R. I. hoist their flag, but that is all right; it is *Uncle Sam (italics added)*, anyhow. The prisoners were discharged on parole, much to their gratification and some of our boy's displeasure. Sightseers say that they had a great time over in Beaufort Saturday when the garrison was set free." (36)

"Children looking for their parents, wives for their husbands, fathers for their children

APRIL 23, 2012 BY JOHN ROGERS BLOG

The Surrender of Fort Macon

In his next letter written three days after the surrender of Fort Macon, Oliver Case gives an account of his view of the culminating action during the siege of the Confederate fort at the tip of the Bogue Banks. Brigadier General John G. Parke, the brigade commander placed in command of the siege efforts by General Burnside, had assembled his guns for the attack including three artillery batteries of eleven total guns, both mortars and 30-pound rifled guns. The soldiers of the 8 th CVI had labored for weeks preparing the artillery and infantry positions to lay siege to the fort.

*The regiment has been hard at work ever since we arrived here, throwing up entrenchments to protect the artillery and infantry.**[1]***

On the 24th of April, with the preparations for a bombardment completed, General Parke called for the Confederate garrison of Fort Macon to surrender. General Burnside had arrived the previous day and met under a flag of truce with the commander of the fort to no avail.

*The surrender of the fort was now demanded, and met a defiant refusal.**[2]***

Burnside gave the order to commence with the siege and Parke responded to the defiant Rebels by turning up the pressure.

*Our riflemen pushed up so close as to pick off the rebel gunners.**[3]***

The bombardment of Fort Macon began at 5:00 am on the morning of April 25th with Parke`s eleven guns from Bogue Banks and some assistance from batteries afloat.

*On the morning of the 25th, fire was opened on the fort from the shore batteries and the three steamers moving in a circle. The latter drew off after an hour's fighting; and the siege batteries increased in energy, shaking the sandy beach, and knocking gun after gun from the fort's parapet.**[4]***

For the next eleven hours, the Union artillerymen with assistance from the soldiers of the 8 th CVI kept up the bombardment. The masonry fort was no match for the modern rifled artillery and several large openings appeared in the walls and gun after gun was disabled. Through it all, the 8 th CVI was in the thick of the action. Oliver writes to Abbie:

The work was completed Thursday night and the bombardment commenced early the next morning and continued without intermission until four in the P.M., our regiment meanwhile lying behind the breastworks while a perfect rain of shot and shell came upon all sides of them, many times caving the banks upon them so it was necessary to dig one another out with shovels.

*Several of our men were hit by balls rolling into the trench upon them, but none were wounded. The artillery lost one killed and two wounded.**[5]***

Croffut and Morris confirm the role of the 8 th during the bombardment:

*The Eighth was alone in the rifle-pits, between the thundering cannon, shooting the rebel gunners and infantry whenever a head was visible.**[6]***

The fort was commanded on this day by 27-year old Confederate Colonel Moses J. White. White, a native of Mississippi, held an impressive record at the U.S. Military Academy in the Class of 1858 graduating second. Originally assigned to the western theater at the beginning of the war, he was given command of Fort Macon on October 5, 1861. During the siege, White was struggling with health problems that had first appeared during his time at West Point. However, he continued to encourage his officers and soldiers during the bombardment until he was completely exhausted.

Colonel Moses J. White, Commander of Fort Macon

By the afternoon of the 25 th, it was evident that the fort and its garrison could not withstand much more of the devastating fire from the Union guns. After meeting with his commanders, White ordered the flag of surrender to be raised.

*The rebels came out with a white flag about four o'clock and a messenger was sent for. Gen. Burnside, also, arrived in the evening. Capitulations were agreed upon before morning...**[7]***

The Union forces entered the fort and raised the national colors igniting a controversy between two of the regiments.

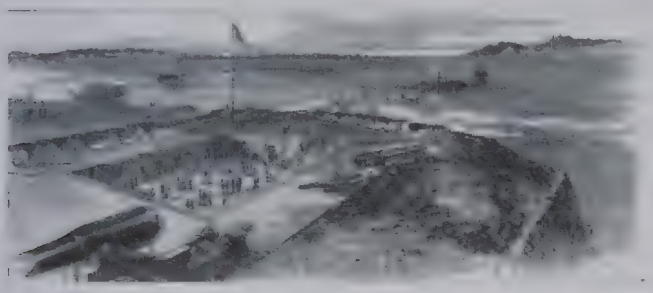
*...early the next day the "Stars and Stripes" were run up by the 4 th R. I. Regiment. The 8 th Conn. were not very well suited to do all the work and have the 4 th R.I. hoist their flag, but that is all right; it is "Uncle Sam", anyhow.**[8]***

Croffut and Morris identify the Rhode Island regiment as the 5 th and give additional details on the honor bestowed on them in lieu of the 8 th

.

...the 5 th Rhode-Island; and to this fragment of a regiment the rebel flag was given as a trophy next morning, when the formal surrender was made, and the regiment took possession of the fort. The Eighth considered itself again defrauded of its just rights; and the Tribune's narrative said, "But for the accident that the 5 th Rhode-Island had relieved the Eighth Connecticut the previous evening, the captured flag would have gone to grace the legislative halls at Hartford."

Gen. Parke justifies giving the preference to the Rhode-Island regiment by the fact that the Eighth Connecticut Volunteers had no field-officer present to receive the surrender. ***[9]***



The Surrender of Fort Macon.

April 26, 1862

In a happier ending to the story for the Confederate officers and soldiers of Fort Macon, Oliver relates that many of them, after their parole, were reunited with their family members.

The prisoners were discharged on parole, much to their gratification and some of our boy's displeasure. Sightseers say that they had a great time over in Beaufort Saturday when the garrison was set free. Children looking for their parents, wives for their husbands, fathers for their children and when they were recognized in the crowd such a hugging and kissing as was not often seen was carried on. ***[10]***

ENDNOTES:

[1] Unpublished Oliver Case letter to Abbie Case dated 28 April 1862 from the Simsbury Historical Society
[2] The Military and Civil History of Connecticut: The War of 1861-1865, 1868 by W.A. Croffut and John M. Morris, 1868
[3] IBID
[4] IBID
[5] Case letter, 28 April 1862
[6] Croffut and Morris
[7] Case letter, 28 April 1862
[8] IBID
[9] Croffut and Morris
[10] Case letter, 28 April 1862

Chapter ??—Alonzo Grove Case Story

Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library
Volume 13 Issue 4 Winter 2006-07
The Simsbury Free Library
The Original Trustees By Mary Jane Springman

Amos R. Eno appointed ten trustees in 1874 to manage the affairs of the Simsbury Free Library. The composition of the board remained the same for more than twenty-seven years, demonstrating the wisdom of Mr. Eno's selection and dedication of the men he chose.

Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and served until his death at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave the following account of his early life.

> Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.
>
> Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (NC) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver Cromwell Case), He recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined [according to memorandum from prisoner of war records he was confined at Camp Asylum in Columbia, SC on April 20, 1864] to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.
>
> Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself cloths from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.
>
> Mrs. Calvert goes on to say Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two years and as tax collector, also for two years, and was elected to represent the Town in the Connecticut Legislature in 1867. "He was a deacon of the Congregational Church, a Mason and President of the Ex-Union Prisoners of War Association," The sword that he

and when they were recognized in the crowd such a hugging and kissing as was not often seen was carried on. I forgot to mention that their loss (according to their statement) was 8 killed and 15 wounded, but *Dame Rumor* (italics added) says they were busy all night burying their dead. There were five guns dismounted in the fort and the inside generally was pretty well used up. Capt. Hoyt has been over to see us today and will probably take charge of his Regiment in a few days." (36)

"We shall have to go to Newbern tomorrow or next day – distance 42 miles – good tramp for a worn out Regiment." (36)

"I have the ague about two days out of three; I have an excellent appetite and eat more victuals and quinine than two men should. My discharge was made out by the Capt. about ten days since; he says he will do all he can to get it through. Don't think I am hard sick for I am around cooking and shaking, hardly ever contented to be in my tent. Now that I have told you this, don't think that I am coming for it is not such an easy thing to get a discharge and as far as living is concerned, I could live three years and shake all of the time, but I never should be of any use to the army. He closes his April 28 letter from Bogue Island with: "Write soon and often." (36)

Chapter ~~14~~ 13—Back to New Bern, N. C.

He begins his May 8 letter from New Bern, "yours of the 27 th is just at hand and had I have written no letter home for some time I hasten to reply. When I last write you, we were among the sand hills of Bogue Island where a spear of green grass was a curiosity and where sand flies and fleas seemed as if to foreclose mortgages upon your carcass, but now thank fortune we are once more in an inhabitable country where everything is calculated to make one enjoy himself." (37)

"The ground is carpeted, the trees are covered with foliage and both upon the ground and trees abound. We left Bogue Bank about a week since, taking an old schooner for Carolina City and from thence the *Young Wheelbarrow*, a small stern wheel steamer taken from *secesh* (italics added), to Morehead where we arrived in the P.M. We spent the night in the R. R. depot, which by the way is situated over the water, and took the steamer *Highland Light* for Newbern where we arrived about 5 P.M. and after spending the following night upon the boat were landed upon the opposite side of the Trent from Newbern. We are encamped about ¾ of a mile from the city upon the bank of the Neuse [River] in a very pleasant locality." (37)

"We received our new Sibley tents yesterday and are much pleased with them. They are perfectly round with a center pole about twelve feet high and a ventilator at the top. The diameter of the tents at the bottom is about twelve feet and they accommodate when full twenty, although at present they will have to accommodate only twelve." (37)

The Sibley tent was invented by the American military officer Henry Hopkins Sibley and patented in 1856. Of conical design, it stands about twelve feet high and eighteen feet in diameter. It can comfortably house about a dozen men. Sibley's design was supported by a central pole which would telescope down into the supporting tripod so that it took less space to pack and store. It required no guy ropes, being held down by twenty-four pegs around the base. The use of a cowl over the central pole allowed for ventilation and for the escape of smoke.

Lived in Westogue

"Every few days our pickets are driven in (about twelve miles below here) by some *secesh* (italics added) cavalry. Several have been killed and some taken prisoners. To prevent this in the future, Gen Burnside has ordered several thousand cavalry to be sent on to scour the country and look up the scattering rebels. The first detachment arrived Tuesday and the others (35 schooners in all) are said to be between here and Hatteras." (37)

"There is an excellent daily published here by the Union troops which gives all the news current in this quarter. I will send you one the first opportunity. The steamer last night brought in the news that Yorktown was evacuated. Query, where will they make a stand next?" (37)

"Capt. Hoyt is well and with his company. He has had a pretty tough time of it. This is the first place I have been in this state where the land looked as though it would pay for cultivation, but here it looks as if it might raise large crops of corn or tobacco." (37)

"In some of my letters I have spoken of getting a discharge but as I am well at present and likely to continue so I, of course, shall (and can) not get one." (37)

"The troops are busily engaged in building a railroad bridge over the Trent (where the rebels burnt the old one) and in a short time [R. R.] Communication will be open throughout the whole extent of the road. The checks of the state bounty are ready and will be given out today or tomorrow." (37)

"I received last mail the first No. of *The News Letter*. I suppose they are plenty with you although quite a novelty here. When I heard that the Conn. [River] had been so high I thought that you must have had some trouble with water in Weatogue." (37)

"Write soon and often. Letters from home are getting to be a scarcity with me; in fact, letters from any place are not as plenty as they were. I used to get at least 4 each mail, now sometimes one and sometimes not any. I made out to get three today, considering myself lucky." (37)

I am glad you sent a box of things although I am well at present. Are farmers planting yet? Are trees leaved out? How is Grandmother suited with the change? I heard Col. J. A. Tuller did not like Alonzo coming onto Grandmothers'. Is that so? Give my respects to all inquiring friends. Have you received the money [that] I sent home. I sent it with Lieut. March directed to Anna. There was $25.00 of it. Send some stamps. Direct [next mail to] Newbern." (37)

On May 24 Oliver talks about: "The last mail for this division having been miscarried, we have been a week without mail matter and being tired of waiting have concluded to write again, mail or not. There has been no particular change in the department since last report. The season is advancing rapidly. Blackberries are ripe in abundance and just outside the guard they are plenty but we cannot get at them but the darkies have full swing at them for they can go out and in when they please. The berries are different from those [up] north. They taste more like a mulberry and the vines have not near as many or as long thorns as there. There is quite a peach orchard just outside of camp. The fruit is about as large as a small butternut and grows quite fast. The land here is fertile (or at least looks so) and is covered over with weeds, wild vines etc. in abundance. It looks too bad to see it lie uncultivated when good land is so scarce in these parts, but the owner being *secesh* (italics added) thought that he was not wanted and when he heard of our approach [he] *vamoosed the ranch* (italics added)." (38)

"The expedition has three engines put together and soon we shall have steam cars running over the rails and things will have a more business like aspect. Rumor says that any gunboats are to go to Charleston; how much truth there is to this remains to be seen. Rumor from James River that the *Monitor* had a shot put through her and the *Galena* was riddled and obliged to put back for repairs. Rumor that Beauregard has surrendered with 25,000 prisoners. Can't quite see it." (38)

"I do not think this Regiment will see any more service, but everyone has his own opinion. The Colonel reported to the Gen.yesterday that we had but 350 men upon duty and they were not fit for a long march or heavy fatigue. We are thrown out of position in the brigade and are not brigaded at all at present. Many think that we shall never move again until we move for Conn." (38)

"We have 2 new Surgeons; 1 hired for 30 days, the other for 60. Dr. Pease from Thompsonville is one and Dr. Holcomb from somewhere near New Haven is the other. We also have a new Chaplain; he appears to be a very nice man. I do not think he will come up to Dr. Woolley." (38)

"Alonzo asked me what was going to be the next news of Burnside. We do not know as much of his movements or intended movements as you do. He has at and around Newbern 20,000 men which are able with the immense fortifications to resist a force of 100,000 men if they should slip through Mac's fingers." (38)

"George Lewis is quite sick in the hospital. Benejah is healthy and as full of life as ever." (38)

"I was very much surprised and rejoiced to hear that Father attended church again. He will enjoy it much better than heretofore. I should like very much to take a look into the kitchen and see you all if only for a short time but that is not possible at present, but I trust it will be in a few weeks. I was glad to hear that Elfrida Case was getting better." (38)

"Do you get any news of Gen. Hunter's division? We have heard nothing from them since the taking of Fort Pulaski. We are daily looking for the taking of Charleston and Savannah." (38)

"You asked me to name Alonzo's boy. I have thought over the whole category of names from Adam down to the last edition and I do not find any to suit me. I think if Alonzo wishes to hand his name down to posterity, it is a good time to do it, but I should adopt some other name in place of Grove. If I was going to name a child I think I should take some fashionable name and pick out the most *frenchified* (italics added) different name it was possible to find but everyone to their notion. You might name him after some of our great Generals now in the field." (38)

"How does Col. Case take his wife's death? I reckon it would go rather hard with him, feeble as he is." (38)

"My hair is growing out fast; it will be fit to cut in a few weeks. How is fruit this season? Is there going to be many apples? Write soon. Give my love to Julia. Remember me to all inquiring friends, James in particular." (38)

On May 30 Oliver address his dear sister, "Yours of the 19 th was received the 17 th inst. and was read with interest. Everything remains here the same as at last advice with the exception of a change in the officers of the company. Lieut. W. P. Marsh has

been promoted to Capt. of Co. F. It was a surprise to our company as well as theirs and it was universally regretted by the men as he was an officer thought everything of by them. How it will go down in Co. F. I do not know for the Lieut. that came out with them as first Lieut. is in the same position at present while our old Lieut. came out as 2 nd Lieut. of this company. He was presented with a sword and sash by the boys. It took him entirely by surprise and his attempt to make a speech was a failure. Capt. Ward has been promoted to Major, our old Major Appleman having been promoted to Lieut. Col." (39)

"I am on guard today for the first in a long time and am writing this by the guard tent for we are not allowed to go to our tents for 24 hours. It is reported today that Gen. Foster's brigade are coming this side of the Trent to build a fort." (39)

"The Paymaster has just come upon the grounds to pay off and I expect we shall get our pay ere long. It is overdue since May 1 st. I may get it so as to send some in this letter. I shall see about Mr. Bacon's letter the first opportunity which I think will be tomorrow for the old guard have a pass to the city the next day after having been upon duty." (39)

"I understand that our Regiment is to be filled up. We are not sorry for the guard duty is rather irksome for the well ones for there is so many off from duty." (39)

"We have just been up and got our pay but I will not send it home until I hear from the bounty check which I sent when I first came here. The letter is directed to A. G. [Alonzo Grove] Case, Simsbury, and made payable to him in order so that if he does not get it I shall not lose it and the money together by express." (39)

"I received my box long ago, sooner than I did the letter you sent with it. I presume ere this you have received the letter acknowledging the receipt of it. I can tell you I enjoyed it hugely and I think it did me much good. The cheese is excellent; I think the best I ever ate. Dried beef also and the brandies and wine, well, I shall not attempt to describe them." (39)

"Give my love to all, especially Alonzo, wife and children and Grandmother. I do not know as you can read this. I think you will find it harder than Mr. Bacon's writing. My health is good at present and I enjoy it. I do not know but you will think I spend a good deal of my money. I am not in the hospital as nurse." (39)

From Newbern Oliver writes on June 3 rd: "When I stopped writing the other day I did not expect that so long a time would elapse ere I should again resume my pen but it being impossible for me to finish it that day as I had no envelopes with me." (40)

"The last day of May we were already and in line to go over to Newbern but [it] was oppressively warm. Before we got to the city it commenced raining and we had the pleasure of standing in the street about ½ an hour and then marching back again. The new bridge over the Trent is all done but laying the track and fixing the draw. It was planked for us to walk over. I was surprised at the distance across (for the Trent is a small stream compared with the Neuse) which is at least ½ mile and the distance from where we were encamped to the bridge must be ¾ of a mile at least. It brightened up in the P.M. We were again ordered to prepare for review and again took up the line of march for the metropolis. We were reviewed and inspected by Gen. Burnside and aides and paraded nearly all over the city." (40)

"Tonight a number fainted and had to be taken out of the ranks during the inspection which was tedious. As soon as our Regiment reached the bridge to go back, I fell out and after resting a short time went back into the city, bought a good supper and then

strolled around where I pleased, my gun and equipments being as good as a pass; for the patrol took me for one of themselves. I did not arrive in camp until 8'clock." (40)

"Newbern is one of the pleasantest (sic) cities I ever saw for its streets are shaded by large trees which meet overhead which makes the streets pleasant that otherwise would be uninhabitable. The streets are regularly laid out but the houses for the most part are low wooded buildings and would compare unfavorable with any out of the way neighborhood at the North. Sunday I was again over to the city for the old guard has the privilege of one day to the city and the day upon review did not count." (40)

"We have just got a new program for the duties of the day. Reveille at 5 o'clock A. M, drill 7.30 to 9 A. M, Battalion drill 4 to 6.30 P.M, taps 8:25. These are the principal changes." (40)

"I cannot get Mr. B's letter through at present but will as soon as possible. Please write whether A. G. received check for state bounty for if he did not it will be necessary to get a new one. He closes his June 3 letter, "Remember me to all." (40)

Chapter ~~15~~ 14—Fredricksburg, Virginia

This is the last letter we have from Oliver Cromwell Case written in camp near Fredricksburg, Va. dated August 7, 1862. He begins by saying, "Knowing you would be anxious to know of my whereabouts, I take the first opportunity of addressing a few lines to you." (41)

"We left camp at Newport News, Saturday, August 2 nd about 10 o'clock P.M. and went aboard the steamer *Columbia*. I was one of the detail of 75 men to load and unload baggage and convey it aboard. We were detailed at 4 P.M. and finished at 3 A.M. Wednesday morning. I can tell you we felt like sleep about the time we finished our work." (41)

"We were all put upon one small steamer – baggage, horses and all – and the weather was hot, hotter, hottest. You can judge of the room we had but I was fortunate enough to get a place upon the hurricane deck and got all the breeze there was. We left the dock, or rather the steamer started the trip, about noon. We left Fortress Monroe at 4 P.M, arriving at Aquia Creek next P.M." (41)

Aquia Creek is a tributary of the tidal segment of the Potomac River located in Northern Virginia. The creek empties into the Potomac at Brent Point 45 miles south of Washington, D.C.

"Went ashore next (Tuesday) morning, took the cars for the South. Here again I was fortunate enough to get on top of a box car and was quite comfortable while the train was in motion. The road runs through the finest country I ever saw and contrasts strangely with the country we have seen heretofore. The place where we at last brought up is the pleasantest place I ever saw. The railroad runs through a fertile valley with low hills upon each side. We toiled up one of these hills to the east with our knapsacks and accoutrements on under a blazing sun, many falling out by the way. After supper, on reaching the top of the hill, we had a splendid view of the city of Fredricksburg and the village of Falmouth which lie west of the railroad upon either side of the Rappahannock. There are very many nice farm houses surrounded by any quantity of shade and fruit trees – some built the same style as Chester Seymour's, but nicer. One peculiarity about

the hilly land here is that it is so free from stones of any size and the land is comparatively smooth and the hills nearly regular. I saw some that were perfect cones and others that are in ranges so the sides are like the sides of a huge roller." (41)

"In the P.M. we were marched down the hill to the opposite side of the railroad where we bivouacked for the night. Yesterday pitched tents and commenced housekeeping. We have not had any rations yet but lucky for us we were paid off before we started." (41)

"There are picketing skirmishes nearly every [day and will probably continue]. We shall probably advance in a short time." (41)

"Enclosed find 30 dollars. I received express bill yesterday. Think the box will be forwarded without doubt as letters from Newport News are forwarded daily. I send you by mail the paper published here. Direct [mail]: Burnside's Division, Fredricksburg, Va. via Washington" (41)

On August 9 Oliver adds, "I gave this to the Chaplain to send by express but could not. I have to take out the money." (41)

This concludes the 33 letters written by Oliver to his sister that were saved and transcribed by volunteers at the Phelps Tavern Museum in Simsbury, Connecticut. This is a first person record of Oliver's one year experiences as a Union soldier.

From August 7 to September 17 the story will be continued from the history of the 8 th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, other books, documents and battle records.

Chapter ~~16~~ 15—Approaching Antietam

The 8 th Regiment of the CVI moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia August 1 to 5 and camped across the Rappahannock River from the city spending August doing picket duty with the 11 th Regiment. (42)

On Wednesday, September 3, 1862 General Robert E. Lee's Army four days after the Confederate army's stunning victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run; General Lee dispatched a long letter to President Jefferson Davis. The key sentence was about how propitious it would be for his army to enter Maryland. However, Lee announced his plan, "to carry the war onto enemy soil…." He would take his Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River into Maryland. By invading Maryland Lee thought he could harass the enemy on their own soil. (42 Pg8)

On September 3 Lee broke camp and headed toward the fords on the Potomac River near Leesburg, Virginia. Initially Lee did not intend to occupy enemy territory permanently. (42 Pg10) Lee entered Maryland with barely more the 50,000 men. (42 Pg11)

The Connecticut 8 th Regiment CVI arrives at Washington, DC on September 3 and stayed until September 8 and made camp on the grounds of the Capitol. Then they began their march west to join the Army of the Potomac in its chase after Lee. Along with the 11th and 16 th Connecticut and the 4 th Rhode Island, they became part of Burnside's 9 th Corps, Rodman's 3 rd Division, in Harland's 2 nd Brigade. Because Harland had taken command of the 2 nd Brigade, Lt. Col. Hiram Appleman took command of the 8 th Connecticut. (42)

Many of Lee's men were ill and exhausted. He lost some of his men to physical pain

and severe hunger for they had not eaten for 6 days. Many suffered a bad attack of diarrhea. (42 Pg11) In spite of these problems the morale was high. One soldier wrote home, "None but heroes left." (42 Pg13)

On September 4 the Confederate Army arrived in Leesburg. After coming upon a ford they started the invasion of Maryland. The Potomac was one-half mile wide and at the ford and was waist deep. It took 4 days for Lee's army to cross at the ford—from September 4 to 7. (42 Pg13)

Meanwhile, hope for the Union Army fell on Major General George B. McClellan. On Friday, September 5 he began marching the bulk of his army into Maryland. He took about 84,000 troops. (42 Pg15)

On Sunday, September 7, Lee's troops finished crossing the Potomac. (42 Pg 21)

The 8 th Regiment CVI departs Washington, DC. The roads were crowded with wagon trains and soldiers. The sun was hot and the march was covered with a dust cloud. They marched 10 miles that day and stopped at Leeboro. (42)

Wednesday, September 10, Lee's army began to leave Frederick, Maryland after the soldiers were refreshed after 4 days rest. (42 Pg21)

Under McClellan the Federal Army was in better physical condition than Lee's. On September 11 the Army of the Potomac was still 15 miles southeast of Fredrick and advancing only 6 miles a day. (42 Pg23)

McClellan was always thought to be overly cautious and added to that McClellan was hampered by lack of accurate intelligence about Lee's army strength-he was given estimates of 100,000 to 200,000 troop strength. (42Pg23)

The 8th Regiment of the CVI continues advancing but wagons and soldiers cause a significant delay. The 8 th and 11th CVI Regiments followed Lee's army from Frederick, Maryland. (42)

They continued to the foot of South Mountain near Turner's Pass where the Regiments supported the cavalry. Then both Regiments marched to Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg arriving on September 16. It was the next morning when the fortunes of the 8 th diverged from those of the 11th the latter was chosen by Burnside to help take the Lower Bridge at about 10 A.M. while the 8 th remained with the 2 nd Brigade closer to Snavely's Ford under the Confederate-occupied western bluffs across the Antietam. Rodman's division crossed Antietam Creek at Snavely's Ford at about 1 P.M., the same time Burnside's other units finally fought their way across the Lower Bridge to the north. Rodman's division was to link up with those units and join them in angling to their right joining in on the attack on Sharpsburg. (44)

Rodman did not know the terrain over which his division had to pass on September 17 nor was he at all aware of the approach of A.P. Hill's division of the Army of Virginia crossing the Potomac ford after its forced march from Harper's Ferry. After all of Burnside's brigades rested and re-supplied following the three-hour fight to cross the Antietam, Harland's brigade continued its sweep around the Confederate right threatening to cut it off from its Potomac ford.

Rodman was delayed in linking up with Willcox's Division to the north by the stubborn defense of some Confederate units under Toombs which were the residuals of the

Regiments forced back from the bluffs overlooking the Lower Bridge. After the Union units to the north had received more ammunition the advance continued. At about 4 P.M. Harland ordered his three regiments to advance but apparently only the 8th heard the order and moved forward. Harland sent his aide to hurry up the other two Regiments. Then, Rodman riding up ordered Harland to stay with the 8 th trying to catch up and support General Willcox's 89 th New York; Harland accompanied the 8 th as it continued on its advance forward and to its right. Rodman then left to go after the 16 th and the 4 th Rhode Island but just as he turned to leave, he was fatally wounded. Harland, still nearby, took command. (44)

The 8 th CVI was alone about a half mile from its starting point with the Brigade; it was only 120 yards from the Harper's Ferry Road near a battery of abandoned Confederate cannons, the South Carolina Pee Dee battery, which they and the 9 th New York had taken. But then, they saw Confederate troops advancing on the road from the west. Confederate General Toombs saw the 8 th "standing composedly in line of battle" apparently waiting for support. The 8 th in its forward position was under heavy artillery and musket [fire] and took about fifty percent casualties, a severe loss demonstrating the fury it faced: 34 killed, 139 wounded, and 21 missing. A company commander described the fight: (44)

"Bullets came in terrible showers and from all sides of us…but we were trapped on our left flank…full of rebels. Where was our support [?]. Where was the first brigade none of them to be seen on the right where they had gone. Where was the 16 th and 4 th Regit. who were on left? It was death to remain in this advanced position longer. The Lt. Colonel was wounded and taken to the rear. 6 out of my little company of 39 men lay dead at my feet and some 15 had been wounded…. My Lt. also wounded. I had but seven men left of my company [after detaching]. [A]fter forming we marched down to creek… [a] sad exhausted little company." (44)

The major reason for this heavy loss was that it faced the Confederates by itself on a plateau because its two sister Regiments, the 16 th Connecticut and 4 th Rhode Island, never made it out of the 40-acre cornfield located in a hollow to the southeast. While some of the 8 th retreated without firing a shot, most of the veterans, according to an unidentified officer of the 37 th North Carolina said, it "held ground quite stubbornly, fought splendidly, and went off very deliberately, firing back at [us] and waving its flag." (44)

Harland's aide had found the 16 th Connecticut with its 900 raw recruits and ordered it up to rejoin the 8 th, but a Confederate Regiment opened fire from a few yards away on its left flank; the 16 th's Colonel ordered it to change front but the men had little idea how to accomplish this complicated maneuver. A few minutes later, after leaving over three hundred casualties in the cornfield now turned red, the survivors ran toward the Antietam. The 16 th Connecticut and 4 th Rhode Island had been hit in the left flank by the full fury of Gregg's brigade of Hill's division in a downhill attack sustaining 285 casualties in the two regiments within minutes. Just to the northwest at about the same time, the 8 th was hit on its left flank by Confederate Brig. Gen. O'Brien Branch's Brigade; Branch was killed in that attack while 346 in his Brigade joined him as casualties. (44)

A two-hour respite given the Confederates had allowed them to fall back and regroup; and this also permitted the unexpected arrival of Hill's division which extended the Confederate right beyond the Union line.

McClellan's total failure to make any use of the 4,000 cavalry he had available for scouting and reconnaissance allowed Hill to approach undetected. Burnside's assault was in jeopardy even though Hill was able to bring only about 2,000 men against Burnside's several thousand; Hill's depleted brigades were able to take Rodman's division in its left flank and combined with the element of surprise against the green troops, resulted in a rout. (44)

The remnants of the 14 th Connecticut and 4 th Rhode Island retreated as fast as they could to the east with only a few pausing to fire at the pursuing Confederates. Men continued to be hit as the Confederates continued their pursuit soon threatening to push the men into the Antietam. However, closer to the creek, Ohio regiments which had formed a line behind the shattered remains of Harland's brigade were able to stem the Rebel tide just before dark. The 8 th, from its isolated position ahead of and to the north of its Brigade, retreated more towards the northeast ending up on the Rohrbach Bridge Road moving south on the road to rejoin the rest of the Brigade. Fortunately for the Union regiments on the west bank, Confederate officers had decided not to continue the attack. The shaken survivors of Harland's brigade could now try to rest amid the moans of the wounded and dying. The 8 th had sustained its highest loss it would experience during the entire war: 194 men killed, wounded and missing. (44)

It was ~~most likely~~ during this last battle ~~is when~~ Oliver Cromwell Case was shot through the head just above the ear.

Chapter ~~17~~ 16--Conclusion

It had to have been painful for Oliver's family that he did not survive the war. It had to have been very heartbreaking for his father and especially for his mother since his father went to Antietam to have Oliver's remains unearthed and then took his dead ~~body~~ back to Simsbury to be buried there. Did his mother insist that her son's remains be returned? She probably did since every mother wants to have closure for a tragedy like this especially when it is her youngest son. If Oliver could have returned to Simsbury after his service, married and had children he would have been a good father. From the insights gained from his letters he was a thoughtful and compassionate soldier and friend. He would have been a good husband and father but as a result of his being killed it meant that his progeny died with him. But as he said in one of his letters he was not afraid to die. Was he proud to serve his country? Based on the totality of this story we can believe he was.

Oliver's parents also had two other sons, Ariel and Alonzo, who continued to fight in the war. And later Alonzo was captured and imprisoned in Andersonville, Georgia. His mother and his wife had to be heartbroken with worry until he was pardoned and released.

So, this one family suffered a lot of grief because of the war. That grief and suffering was to be multiplied by many thousands of families in the north and in the south.

But in a strange way Oliver lives even today with the words that he wrote in his letters and that his sister, Abbie, must have cherished and saved for herself, her family and us today. Oliver was concerned about his family and their welfare, he helped care for his fellow soldiers when they were sick and was always asking about his parents and his friends back home. Based upon all that we know during his eleven months in the

Connecticut 8 th Regiment, he surely was a hero at the height of the battle at Antietam Creek when they needed him.

Oliver's true story ends on a sad note with his death on September 17, 1862. The following is part of the story told by Oliver's brother Alonzo Grove Case in his Recollections of Camp and Prison Life that has been received from The Phelps Tavern and Museum. This is part of his story:

"I went with my brother, Ariel Job Case, to where the Eighth Regiment CVI was fighting to learn the fate of our younger brother Oliver and found only eight or 10 of his company left from about 40 they had started with on the morning of the battle. We were told by a comrade of Oliver's that had stood beside him when he fell. His fellow soldier said that he called him by name but there was no reply. He said that he was no doubt killed. The next morning we went and waited near the bridge all day. We could not go onto the battle field as it was held by sharpshooters on both sides. "

"The next day September 19 myself and my brother had permission to go to look over the field to see if our brother's body was there. We wanted to be sure he was dead. We commenced that awful sickening tramp and if I could picture to you the sad sites that we beheld. The ground for acres and perhaps for miles were strewn with dead and wounded. Some of the wounded were crying for water. They had laid there the day of the battle and two nights. Many soldiers were looking for some comrade of their own Regiment but that afternoon we found the body of our brother. He was no doubt killed instantly the bullet having passed through his head just about the top of his ears. We wrapped him in my blanket and carried him to the spot where the Connecticut 16 th Regiment dead were to be buried having first got permission from the Colonel of the Eighth and the 16 th to do so. The Connecticut 16 th Regiment men were buried side by side in a trench. We dug a grave about 6 feet from the mass graves and we deposited the remains of our brother in the ground. We at first pinned a paper with his name and age on the inside of the blanket. Then they put up boards that had his name and Regiment on them."

Alonzo and Ariel went on to fight other battles in the War with the 16 th CVI. Alonzo was taken prisoner by the Confederacy at Plymouth, NC April 20, 1864 and was paroled February 28, 1865 . He was in prison at Andersonville, Georgia. That prison was among the worst of all of the prisons used in the Civil War. But Alonzo survived and returned home.

Oliver's body lay there at Antietam until December when his father went to where he was buried and had the remains returned to Simsbury where it now lies in Hop Meadow Cemetery along with his father, his mother, his brothers and other family members.

The battle on September 17, 1862 at Antietam Creek has been called *The Bloodiest Day* in the Civil War. But in the end General Robert E. Lee, the Confederate General, and General George B. McClellan, the General for the Union, both stopped fighting at the end of that day with neither one of their armies winning.

However, Lee did retreat back to Virginia safely. McClellan did little to impede him. Victory for McClellan meant not the pursuit and destruction of Lee's army, but put simply halting his invasion. It was a bloody standoff with over 22,000 soldiers on both sides being killed, wounded or missing on that day.

This battle gave President Abraham Lincoln the hope he needed for issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln was disgusted with McClellan that he had let Lee's army escapes to be able to fight another day. But Lincoln still regarded it as a victory. On September 22 Lincoln held a Cabinet meeting and discussed the final draft of his Emancipation Proclamation.

It gave the slaves of southern plantations hope that they would have an opportunity for freedom and it gave the nation hope that the United States of America would be one nation again. However, it did take a long time to bring the North and the South together and for the country to become whole again.

The Confederate resistance ended on April 9, 1865 when General Ulysses S. Grant sent a telegram to Lincoln stating that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered the Army of Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse. The fighting continued in other areas for several months.

Epilogue

Jefferson Davis' Presidency, Flight and Capture

Davis was elected to a six-year term as President of the Confederacy on November 6, 1861. He was inaugurated on February 18, 1861. Virginia switched from neutrality and joined the Confederacy, he moved his government to Richmond, Virginia, in May 1861.

On April 3, 1865, with Union troops under Ulysses S. Grant poised to capture Richmond, the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, escaped for Danville, Virginia, together with the Confederate Cabinet, leaving on the Richmond and Danville Railroad. He issued his last official proclamation as President of the Confederacy, and then went south to Greensboro, North Carolina. Circa April 12, where he received Robert E. Lee's letter announcing surrender.

South Carolina Historical Markers tell the rest of the story:

Marker Title: Last Confederate Cabinet Meeting,
Marker Located in Fort Mill, SC
"En route South, President [Jefferson] Davis and his cabinet, hospitably received at Fort Mill, spent the night of April 26, 1865 at the homes of Col. Andrew Baxter Springs and of Col. Wm. Elliott White.... [On] Col. White's lawn, April 27, 1865, the cabinet held its last meeting...."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis' Flight,
Marker Located in Fort Mill, SC
"Having crossed the Catawba [River] at Nation Ford, April 27, 1865, The President of the Confederacy fled south along this road following the fall of Richmond. He was accompanied by the remaining members of his cabinet and a detachment of cavalry under Gen. John C. Breckinridge."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis's Flight,
Marker Located in York, SC
"Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, spent the night of April 27, 1865, in the home of Dr. James Rufus Bratton. Davis, in danger of capture and arrest by Federal troops, was attempting to reach some remnant of the Confederate Army in the South or West with which he could find protection and continue the War."

Marker Title: Cross Keys House,
Marker Located 10 miles SW of Union, SC
"On April 30, 1865, during the retreat from Richmond, Virginia, Jefferson Davis passed through Cross Keys, S.C. accompanied by the Confederate cabinet and his military escort of five brigades. Mrs. Mary Whitmire Davis, who owned the Cross Keys House ... related ... the story of President Davis's luncheon at the house."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis' Flight,
Marker Located about 2.5 miles SW of Joanna, SC
"President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, on his flight from Richmond, Va., spent the night of April 30, 1865 with his cabinet and other high-ranking officers at the home Lafayette Young 1 1/2 miles west. Davis arrived there from Union and left early next morning for Cokesbury and Abbeville."

Marker Title: Jefferson Davis's Flight,
Marker Located in Abbeville, SC
"Here at the home of Colonel Burt, President Jefferson Davis held the last Confederate Council of War on May 2, 1865.... Though Davis passed safely through South Carolina, he was seized in Georgia on May 10 th."

President Jefferson Davis met with his Confederate Cabinet for the last time on May 5, 1865 in Washington, Georgia, and the Confederate Government was officially dissolved. The meeting took place at the Heard house, the Georgia Branch Bank Building, with fourteen officials present. He was captured on May 10, 1865 at Irwinville in Irwin County, Georgia. After being captured, he was held as a prisoner for two years in Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Davis

Appendix

Family Group Sheet Summaries

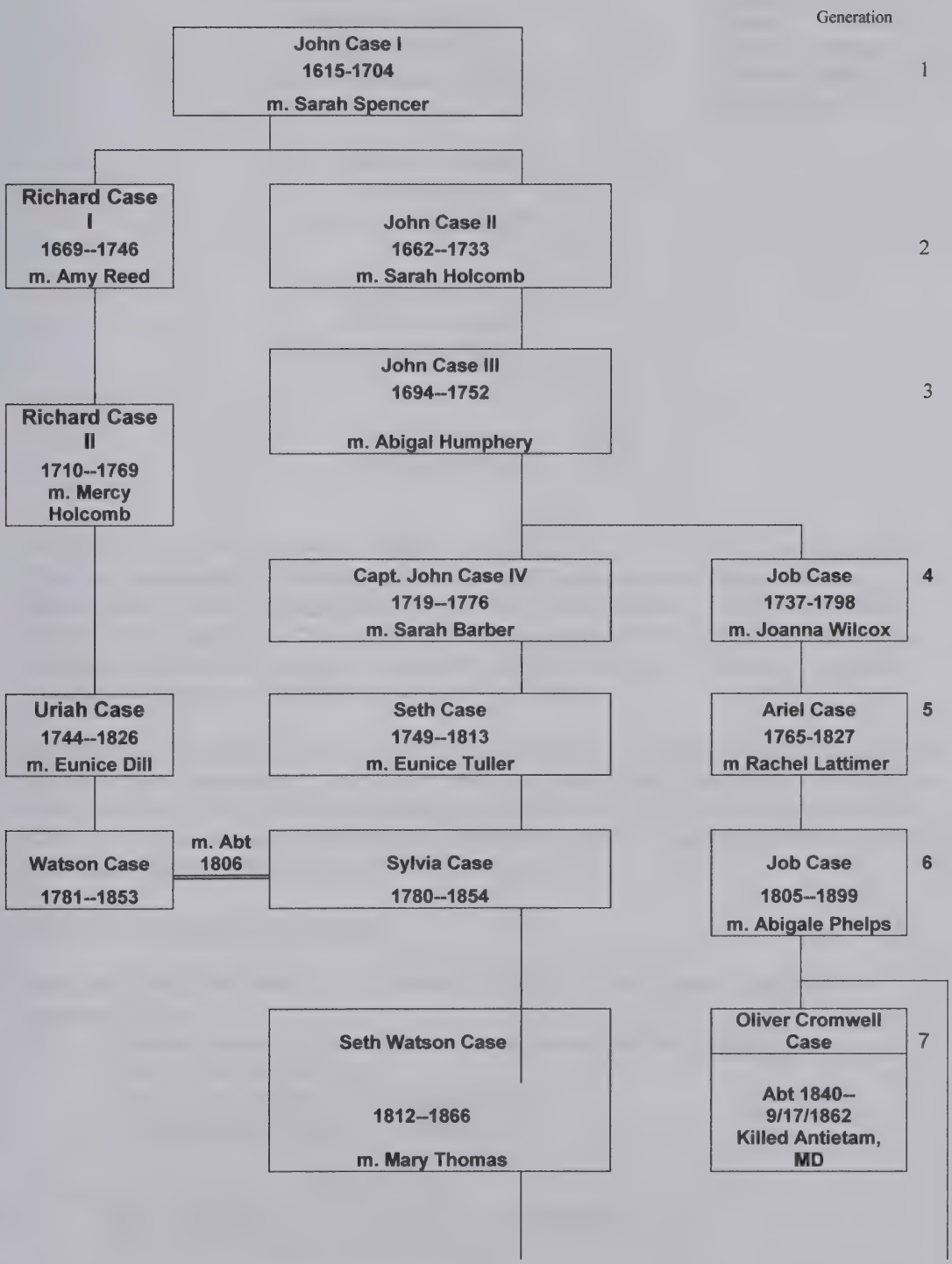
These are the families that are closely associated with Oliver Cromwell Case. These are his ancestors and his immediate family.

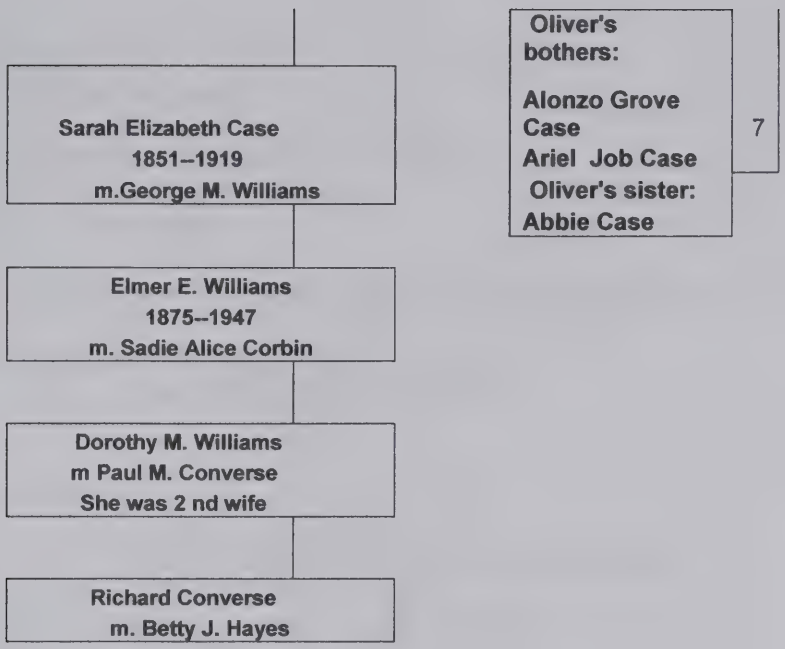
1. John Case (1694-1752) and Abigail Humphrey
   Oliver C. Case's Great-Great Grandparents
2. Job Case (1737-1798) and Joanna Wilcox
   Oliver C. Case's Great Grandparents
3. Ariel Case (1765-1827) and Rachel Lattimer
   Oliver C. Case's Grandparents
4. Job Case (1805-1899) and Abigail Griswold Phelps
   Oliver C. Case's Parents
5. Ariel Case (1831-1875) and Mary Elizabeth Thompson
   Oliver C. Case's Brother and Sister-in-Law
6. Alonzo Grove Case (1834-1902) and Julia S. Chaffee
   Oliver C. Case's Brother and Sister-in-Law
7. Oliver Cromwell Case (1840-1862)
8. George Mortimer Phelps (1846--) and Abbie Jane Case (1846-1935)
   Oliver C. Case's Brother-in-Law and Sister

Source: http://www.loricase.com/gedcom

Case Families

Ancestry Chart





Alonzo Grove Case's great-grandfather, Capt. Job Case, served in the French and Indian War and commanded a Simsbury militia company that saw action during the Revolutionary War. His grandfather, Capt. Ariel Case, served in the 18th Regiment of Militia. His father, Capt. Job Case, was a captain of the cavalry in the state militia. So, Alonzo Grove and his brothers Ariel Job and Oliver Cromwell followed a long military tradition when they volunteered during the Civil War.

Alonzo Case lived in the family home that still stands at on Terry's Plains Road, near the colonial-era militia training ground. The property came to him from his father, Capt. Job Case, and the house is believed to have been built about 1790 by his great-grandfather Capt. Job Case. A look at the Simsbury, Hartford County Censuses for 1860, 1870 and 1880 show that most the family remained near each.

1860 United States Federal Census:

Job Case (54 yo) the father, was a farmer with $2,000 in real property and $100 in personal property

Abigale [Phelps] (54yo) wife of Job and mother was keeping house
Oliver (20yo son) Laborer
Abbie (13 yo daugh) and attending school
Abigale Phelps (78yo) Job's mother-in-law

Ariel J. Case (28yo) wa as Shoe Salesman

Mary [Thompson] (24 yo) wife of Ariel and Keeping House
Elisie (6 yo daugh) and attending school

Charles (2 yo son)
Julia (1 mo old daugh)
Margarette D (22 yo female Servant)

Alonso G. Case (25 yo) was a farmer with real property $140
Julia (21 yo) wife of Alonso and keeping House
Dorcus Aldieenson (76 yo Female)

Alpheus Chaffee (65 yo) was a farmer with $3,500 real property and 400 in personal property
Julia Chaffee (50 yo) female keeping house
James _____ (11 yo) born in NY and attending school

1870 United States Federal Census:

Job Case (64 yo) was a farmer with $3,400 in real estate and $400 personal Estate
Abigail [Thompson] (65 yo) female keeping House
_____ Ferris (16 yo) both his parents were foreign born, he was born in U S and attended school

Ariel J. Case (37 yo) was a Book Agent
Mary (36 yo) female Keeping House
Lizzie (15 yo) daugh
Charles (12 yo) son
Julia A (10 yo) daugh
Oliver C. (8 yo) son

Alphesis Chaffee (75 yo) was a farmer with $4,000 in real property and $1,000 in personal Estate
Julia Chaffee (60 yo)
Alonzo Case (36 yo) Farmer with $3,200 in real property and $5,000 in personal Estate
Julia Case (36 yo)
Lillia (9 yo) daug attended school
Alfred (4 yo) son attended school
Oliver P. (2 mos old) son

1880 United States Federal Census:

Alonzo Case (48 yo was a farmer
Julia [Chaffee] (40 yo) female Keeping House
Alfred (14 yo) son Farm Laborer
Oliver C (12 yo) son working as Farm Laborer
Charles P. (9 yo) son

Burton (7 yo) son
Julia A. (5 yo) daugh
Infant (3 mos) Daugh latter named Ida May Case
Julia Chaffee (70 yo) Mother in Law Keeping House
Job Case (74 yo) Father Farmer

Mary's husband Ariel Job Case died in ~~Columbus~~ Cincinnati, Ohio in September 1875

Mary E Case (45 yo) Keeping House
Charles F. (22 yo) son working as Clerk in Store
Julia A. (20 yo) Daug
Oliver C (17 yo) son working as Clerk in Store

Alonzo's first assignment on the Simsbury Free Library's board in 1874 was "to procure a sign to be placed on the Library building." … Lt. Case was elected to the position of president pro tem from 1876 to 1884. After that he was elected secretary from 1885 until 1891….

After more than twenty-seven years on the board of the Simsbury Free Library, Alonzo Grove Case died on May 5, 1902. He was the first of the original trustees to die and his son, Burton Grove Case (1872-1918) was appointed to fill his seat.

Chapter ??—Alonzo Grove Case Story

Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library
Volume 13 Issue 4 Winter 2006-07
The Simsbury Free Library
The Original Trustees By Mary Jane Springman

Amos R. Eno appointed ten trustees in 1874 to manage the affairs of the Simsbury Free Library. The composition of the board remained the same for more than twenty-seven years, demonstrating the wisdom of Mr. Eno's selection and dedication of the men he chose.

Alonso Grove Case, 1834-1902

Civil War veteran Alonso Grove Case was among the ten trustees of the Simsbury Free Library appointed by Amos R. Eno in 1874. He was forty when appointed and served until his death at the age of sixty-seven. The article "The Sword of Alonzo Case" by Lois W. Calvert, which appeared in this newsletter in 1997, gave the following account of his early life.

> Alonzo Grove Case was born in the old Case homestead on Terry's Plain in June 1834. He attended the one room schoolhouse close to his home, and continued his education at the Connecticut Literary Institute, Suffield and Wilbraham Academies. At the age of 25, he married Julia Chafee of Simsbury and ultimately fathered nine children. He continued to farm until 1862 when he enlisted to fight in the Civil War, and was assigned to Company E, 16th Connecticut Volunteers.
>
> Mustered in as a private, he was promoted to the rank of First Sergeant within a year, then to Second Lieutenant, and by the time he participated in the Battle of Plymouth (NC) in April 1864, he was a First Lieutenant. Although wounded in the side at Antietam (the same battle that claimed the life of his younger brother, Oliver Cromwell Case), He recovered and took part in many other battles until the fateful one at Plymouth. Shot in the foot, he was taken prisoner and confined [according to memorandum from prisoner of war records he was confined at Camp Asylum in Columbia, SC on April 20, 1864] to the infamous Andersonville Prison for several months being transferred to prisons in Savannah and Charleston.
>
> Alonzo's prison life covered the span of almost a year, during which time he lost 45 pounds, and like many other incarcerated prisoners, suffered from hunger and lack of clothing. He made himself cloths from flour sacks and used pieces of cloth from an old overcoat for foot coverings. Discharged after the war, he suffered from asthma for the rest of his life.
>
> Mrs. Calvert goes on to say Alonzo Case served the Town of Simsbury as a selectman for two years and as tax collector, also for two years, and was elected to represent the Town in the Connecticut Legislature in 1867. "He was a deacon of the Congregational Church, a Mason and President of the Ex-Union Prisoners of War Association," The sword that he

lost when he was taken prisoner was returned to him in 1887 by the former Confederate officer Captain James A. Marrow, who had been in command of the Company H, 55 th Regiment, North Carolina Troops, at the Battle of the Wilderness.

Lt. Alonzo Grove Case was the seventh generation in America and a direct descendant of John Case I who emigrated from Aylesham, England.

John Case I settled in Windsor before moving with his wife and children to Weatogue section of the area called Massaco. In 1669 the general court of the Colony of Connecticut appointed him Constable, which was "the first step in the organization and setting up a civil government at Massaco." Historian Bruce C. Daniels states, "The constable, the second most important officer in the towns [after the selectmen], was the first town office created by the General Court in 1636 and was originally intended to deal with the Indians and other threats to the peace. The early military structure of the town was under his control…." John Case I was also the delegate to the General Court, along with Joshua Holcombe, in May 1670 when the court incorporated the town and ordered it be called "Simmsbury." John Case I continued to serve his home town in many capacities until he died on February 21, 1703/04. . [See Case Family Ancestry Chart below].

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Great-Great Grandparents

Husband: **John CASE**

Born: 22 AUG 1694 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Married: 24 JAN 1716/17 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: 2 DEC 1752 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Father: John CASE
Mother: Sarah HOLCOMB
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Abigail HUMPHREY**

Born: at:
Died: at:
Father: Samuel HUMPHREY
Mother: Mary MILLS
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: John CASE
Born: 19 FEB 1718/19 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: 7 NOV 1745 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: 9 FEB 1776 at: Killed in the Revolutionary War
Spouses: Sarah BARBER

Name: Noah CASE
Born: 4 OCT 1720 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 17 DEC 1797 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Miriam HOLCOMB

Name: Charles CASE
Born: 1 JUL 1723 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 17 OCT 1808 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Phoebe HOLCOMB

Name: Abigail CASE
Born: 10 SEP 1725 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: 25 SEP 1746 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: 28 AUG 1779 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Jonathan CASE, JR.

Name: Mary CASE
Born: 29 DEC 1727 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: 25 SEP 1746 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: SEP 1784 at:
Spouses: Samuel ADAMS

Name: Lucia CASE
Born: 17 OCT 1732 at:
Married: at:
Died: BET. 1805 - 1807 at:
Spouses: William WILCOX

Name: Martha CASE
Born: 31 JUL 1735 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: 16 JUL 1752 at:
Died: 29 MAR 1809 at:
Spouses: Thomas BARBER, III

Name: Job CASE
Born: 3 JUN 1737 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 6 MAY 1798 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Joanna WILCOX

Name: Lydia CASE
Born: 1 SEP 1741 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 25 AUG 1796 at:
Spouses: Jonathan PINNEY

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Great Grandparents

Husband: **Job CASE**

Born: 3 JUN 1737 at: Simsbury, Harford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 6 MAY 1798 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: John CASE
Mother: Abigail HUMPHREY
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Joanna WILCOX**

Born: 26 MAY 1740 at:
Died: 17 DEC 1812 at:
Father: Amos WILCOX
Mother: Joanna HILLYER
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Job CASE, JR.
Born: 27 JUL 1758 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 21 APR 1784 at: Simsbury First Congregational Church, Simsbury, CT
Died: 23 AUG 1822 at: Granville, Licking Co., Ohio
Spouses: Mary HOLCOMB Elizabeth? CLEMENS

Name: Joanna CASE
Born: 9 AUG 1760 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 12 MAR 1778 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: at: Ohio
Spouses: Israel CASE

Name: Violet CASE
Born: 19 OCT 1762 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: at:
Spouses:

Name: Ariel CASE
Born: 23 JAN 1765 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at: Simsbury First Church, Simsbury, CT
Died: 19 SEP 1827 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Celia HUMPHREY Rachel LATTIMER

Name: Lucy CASE
Born: 14 FEB 1767 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 AUG 1783 at:
Died: 25 FEB 1795 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Amasa HUMPHREY

Name: Asenath CASE
Born: 12 JUN 1770 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 31 JAN 1786 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: 1795 at:
Spouses: Asa HUMPHREY

Name: Luke CASE
Born: 1 JUL 1772 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 6 SEP 1796 at:
Died: 25 JAN 1806 at: Winsted, Litchfield Co., CT
Spouses: Elizabeth ADAMS

Name: Betsey CASE
Born: 23 DEC 1775 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: MAR 1794 at:
Died: at:
Spouses: Matthew ADAMS

Name: Frederick CASE
Born: 5 MAY 1777 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 20 JAN 1803 at: Winchester, CT Church
Died: at: Ohio
Spouses: Anna W. CHAMBERLIN

Name: Grove CASE
Born: 29 JUN 1779 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 2 MAY 1799 at: Simsbury, CT
Died: 4 APR 1836 at: Ohio
Spouses: Lucinda ADAMS

Name: Friend CASE
Born: 10 NOV 1781 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: BET. 6 JAN 1802 - 1803at: Simsbury, CT
Died: 22 JUN 1840 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Sarah CASE

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Grandparents

Husband: **Ariel CASE**

Born: 23 JAN 1765 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 31 JAN 1786 at: Dudley Pettibone, JP, Simsbury, CT
Died: 19 SEP 1827 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Joanna WILCOX
Other Spouses: Celia HUMPHREY

Wife: **Rachel LATTIMER**

Born: ABT. 1765 at:
Died: BET. 28 - 29 FEB 1816at:
Father: Jonathan LATTIMER
Mother: RACHEL
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Rachel Lury CASE
Born: 30 DEC 1796 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 22 MAR 1815 at: Simsbury, CT
Died: 26 OCT 1870 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Loren WESTON

Name: Job CASE
Born: 29 JUL 1805 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 17 APR 1828 at: Simsbury First Church, Simsbury, CT
Died: 17 DEC 1899 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Abigail Griswold PHELPS

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Parents

Husband: **Job CASE**

Born: 29 JUL 1805 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 17 APR 1828 at: Simsbury First Church, Simsbury, CT
Died: 17 DEC 1899 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Ariel CASE
Mother: Rachel LATTIMER
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Abigail Griswold PHELPS**

Born: 16 JUN 1805 at:
Died: 13 JUL 1877 at:
Father: Oliver PHELPS
Mother: Lurannah ENSIGN
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Rachel Lurannah CASE
Born: 28 JAN 1829 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 6 JUL 1830 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses:

Name: Ariel Job CASE
Born: 3 JUN 1831 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 30 AUG 1854 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 18 SEP 1875 at: Columbus, OH
Spouses: Mary Elizabeth THOMPSON

Name: Alonzo Grove CASE
Born: 7 JUN 1834 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 19 OCT 1857 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 5 MAY 1902 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Julia S. CHAFFEE

Name: **Oliver Cromwell CASE**
Born: ABT. 1840 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 17 SEP 1862 at: Antietam, MD
Spouses:

Name: Abbie Jane CASE
Born: 11 AUG 1846 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 16 FEB 1870 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: 1935 at:
Spouses: George Mortimer PHELPS

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Brother and Sister-in-Law

Husband: **Ariel Job CASE**

Born: 3 JUN 1831 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 30 AUG 1854 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 18 SEP 1875 at: Columbus, OH
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Abigail Griswold PHELPS
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Mary Elizabeth THOMPSON**

Born: 20 MAR 1835 at:
Died: 1922 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Alexander THOMPSON
Mother: Amanda CRANE
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Lizzie Thompson CASE
Born: 26 MAY 1855 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 23 SEP 1878 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 14 DEC 1887 at:
Spouses: Ludlow Osmond BARKER

Name: Minnie Abigail CASE
Born: 6 JAN 1857 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 16 JAN 1859 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses:

Name: Charles Farnham CASE
Born: 22 MAY 1858 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 1 OCT 1883 at: Springfield, MA
Died: 1943 at:
Spouses: Jenny Estelle ATKINS

Name: Julia Amanda CASE
Born: 28 APR 1860 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 6 OCT 1886 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Died: at:
Spouses: Frederick Herbert CARPENTER

Name: Oliver Cromwell CASE
Born: 11 SEP 1862 at: Hartford, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 31 MAR 1886 at: Ipswich, SD
Died: 9 MAR 1908 at: Bermuda on a business trip.
Spouses: Mary Elizabeth OWENS

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Brother and Sister-in-Law

Husband: **Alonzo Grove CASE**

Born: 7 JUN 1834 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 19 OCT 1857 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 5 MAY 1902 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Abigail Griswold PHELPS
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Julia S. CHAFFEE**

Born: 1 JUL 1839 at:
Died: 26 MAR 1923 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Father: Alpheus CHAFFEE
Mother: Julia ALDERMAN
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Lillia Irene CASE
Born: 10 AUG 1860 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 30 APR 1879 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 9 JUN 1913 at:
Spouses: Benjamin Hector SELBY

Name: Alonzo Chaffee CASE
Born: 1 APR 1862 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 1 AUG 1864 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses:

Name: Alfred Terry CASE
Born: 19 JAN 1866 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 25 NOV 1891 at: Oregon
Died: 1938 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Elnora Janette HUNTER

Name: Oliver Phelps CASE
Born: 6 JAN 1868 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 14 MAR 1894 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 24 JUL 1956 at:
Spouses: Martha A. SIMONS

Name: Charles Pitman CASE
Born: 19 JUN 1870 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 14 FEB 1899 at:
Died: 2 MAR 1965 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Spouses: Sarah Goodwin ENO

Name: Burton Grove CASE
Born: 19 AUG 1872 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 MAR 1899 at:
Died: 18 SEP 1918 at:
Spouses: Bertha Lydia LATIMER May E. SLOAN

Name: Julia Abigail CASE
Born: 29 OCT 1874 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: 24 SEP 1901 at:
Died: 10 MAY 1970 at:
Spouses: Albert Hutchins CROSBY

Name: Jennie Isabel CASE
Born: 24 JUN 1876 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 10 DEC 1876 at:
Spouses:

Name: Ida May CASE
Born: 21 FEB 1880 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Married: at:
Died: 8 SEP 1880 at:
Spouses:

Family Group Sheet
Oliver C. Case's Brother-in-Law and Sister

Husband: **George Mortimer PHELPS**

Born: 22 MAR 1846 at:
Married: 16 FEB 1870 at: Simsbury, Hartford, CT
Died: at:
Father: Hector Fayette PHELPS
Mother: Selina BARNARD
Other Spouses:

Wife: **Abbie Jane CASE**

Born: 11 AUG 1846 at: Simsbury, Hartford Co., CT
Died: 1935 at:
Father: Job CASE
Mother: Abigail Griswold PHELPS
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

Name: Pauline Isabelle PHELPS
Born: 13 NOV 1870 at:
Married: at:
Died: at:
Spouses:

Sixty Men with Surname of Case
Who Served in Civil War from Connecticut
Arranged By Regiment

Soldier Name	Side	Function	Regiment Name
Case, Sidney O.	Union	Infantry	Garrison Guards, Connecticut Infantry
Case, George R.	Union	Infantry	1st Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Thomas	Union	Infantry	1st Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, John P.	Union	Infantry	2nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, David C.	Union	Infantry	3rd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Edmund	Union	Infantry	3rd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Benjamin R.	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, George A.	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Joseph	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Sidney O.	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Stephen A.	Union	Infantry	5th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Charles	Union	Infantry	6th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Mather	Union	Infantry	6th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, George W.	Union	Infantry	7th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Dwight	Union	Infantry	8th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Jason	Union	Infantry	8th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Oliver C.	Union	Infantry	8th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Clayton H.	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry

Case, Egbert H.	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Elmer	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, George R.	Union	Infantry	10th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, John	Union	Infantry	11th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Elias	Union	Infantry	12th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Levi H.	Union	Infantry	12th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Ellsworth	Union	Infantry	13th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, George R.	Union	Infantry	13th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, James	Union	Infantry	13th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Frederick A.	Union	Infantry	14th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Sidney O.	Union	Infantry	14th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, George W.	Union	Infantry	15th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Alonzo G.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Alonzo P.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Ariel J.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Charles H.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Chester W.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Hosea E.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, John E.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Lowell M.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Lucien F.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Lucien T.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry

Case, Orville J.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, W. Chester	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, William W.	Union	Infantry	16th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Charles E.	Union	Infantry	18th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, James C.	Union	Infantry	20th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Andrew A.	Union	Infantry	21st Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Albert M.		Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Albert N.	Union	Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Joseph	Union	Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Orrin S.	Union	Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, William Wirt	Union	Infantry	22nd Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, John	Union	Infantry	24th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Alvinsa H.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Edward W.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Horace O.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Marshall W.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Wilbur B.	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, William	Union	Infantry	25th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, John P.	Union	Infantry	26th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry
Case, Thomas M.	Union	Infantry	26th Regiment, Connecticut Infantry

Fall Photograph

Hop Meadow Cemetery
Simsbury Center Cemetery or
Hop Meadow Cemetery
759 Hop Meadow Street
Simsbury, CT

Winter Photograph

Oliver C. Case

Simsbury Center Cemetery or
Hop Meadow Cemetery
759 Hop Meadow Street

Simsbury, CT

O. C. Case

Died September 17, 1862
Grave Marker located in the Antietam Battlefield Cemetery
Near Sharpsburg, MD (3)

Bible of Oliver Cromwell Case (3)

1854 T. Nelson and Sons, London; Edinburgh and New York.

Inscriptions from Oliver Cromwell Case's Bible:
If you die, die like a man.
Miss Abbie J Case, Hartford Conn
[A Name Written in his Bible] Miss Jennie A Hartford
Oliver C. Case
Co. A. 8th Reg't C.V.I.
If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him,
He will also deny us. 2 Tim. 2 [Verse 12]

I sent the following note on November 9, 2009 to John Rogers who currently owns the Bible. He is serving in the United States Army. According to his blog he purchased the Bible at a yard sale in Germantown, MD.

> If you are interested in considering selling Oliver C. Case's Bible I might be interested in purchasing it from you. Of course price might be the determining factor. But I have done some crazy things while doing my genealogy research. Would you consider selling it?

Again on April 15, 2010 I sent a second request to purchase the Bible:

> Oliver and I are 3 rd cousins four times removed.
>
> I have collected two Bibles and a New Testament that had belonged to my ancestors. The New Testament belonged to my great grandfather who served in the Civil War just as Oliver Case did. My great grandfather was from Ohio.
>
> I have to ask you one more time, will you consider selling Oliver C. Case's Bible. If you were to sell it what do you think you would want for it? I may be interested in purchasing it from you. As I said Oliver and I are family and it would be very meaningful to have another family Bible. And it would remain as a keepsake in our family forever.

> Will you consider selling the Oliver Case Bible to me? It would be very meaningful to me to have that Bible and I hope you will consider selling it. Thanks you for your consideration,

I received the following reply:

> I fully understand, but I do not want to sell it at this time. However, I will certainly let you know if I change my mind.
>
> JP Rogers

Footnotes

1. www.holcombegenealogy.com
2. www.loricase.com/gedcom
3. http://olivercromwellcase.wordpress.com
4. www.itd.gov/cwss/Personz_Detail.cfm
5. October 20 letter from "Truly Your Brother, Oliver C. Case"
6. October 28 letter from "Your Affectionate Brother, Oliver"
7. October 31 letter from "Yours with best wishes, Casie."
8. November 3 letter from "Love to all, O. C. Case."
9. November 11 from "Yours every affectionately, O. C. Case."
10. 1860 United States Federal Census, Simsbury, Connecticut
11. November 13 from "Your Brother, O. C. Case"
12. November 28 from "Your Brother, Oliver"
13. December 10 from "Your ever affectionate brother, O. C. Case"
14. December 13 from "Your ever affectionate brother, O. C. Case"
15. December 16 from "Yours, O. C. Case"
16. December 17 from "Your Brother, Oliver"
17. http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~legends/case.html
18. December 21 from "Your Brother, Oliver"
19. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Monroe
20. http://www.civilwarhome.com/soldiersmarch.htm
21. December 25 "from Oliver"
22. December 30 on board the "Recruit", "from your brother, Oliver"
23. en.wiktionary.org/wiki/ague
24. January 3 on board schooner "Recruit", "from your brother"
25. January 7 on board schooner "Recruit", "from your brother"
26. January 9 to 13 on board schooner "Recruit", "from O. C. Case"
27. January 19 on board schooner "Recruit" at Hatteras Inlet, "from O. C. Case"
28. January 26 on board schooner "Chasseur" at Hatteras Inlet, "from Oliver"
29. February 19 at Roanoke Island, "from your brother Oliver Case"
30. February 27 at Roanoke Island, "from your aff. Brother, O. C. Case"
31. March 4 at Roanoke Island, "Love to all, O. C. Case"
32. March 11 off Roanoke Is. on board Chasseur, "from your brother, Oliver."
33. March 16 in camp near Newbern, "from your ever aff. Brother, O. C. Case"
34. April 6 from Carolina City, "from O. C. Case"
35. April 17 from Bouge Island, "For Ever Yours, O. C. Case"
36. April 28 from Bouge Island, "from, O. C. Case"
37. May 8 from Newbern, "Yours etc, O. C. Case"
38. May 24 from Newbern, "Yours O. C. Case"
39. May 30 from Newbern, "Yours etc, O. C. Case"
40. June 3 from Newbern, "Remember me to all, O. C. Case"
41. August 7 from In Camp near Fredricksburg, VA. "O. C. Case"

42. The Bloodiest Day, the Battle of Antietam, By Ronald H. Bailey and the Editors of Time-Life Books, Published by Time-Life Books, Alexandria, Virginia, © 1984
43. Landscape Turned Red, the Battle of Antietam, By Stephen W. Spears, Published by Houghton Mifflin Company Boston and New York, © 1983

44. The Civil War Chronicle, Consultant Richard A. Sauers, Ph.D., Published by Publications International Ltd., ©2004
45. http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/civilwar/articles/nutmeggers2.aspx

Recollections of Camp and Prison Life

By Alonzo Grove Case

16 th Regiment. Connecticut Volunteer
Company E, 2 nd Division, 7 th Army Corp, 2 nd Brigade

In April 1861 there was a gun fired that was heard from Maine to California and from Florida to Washington. That gun was fired by the Rebels from Fort Moultrie to the United States Flag floating over Fort Sumpter. The firing of that gun caused the President (The Lamented Lincoln) to immediately call for 75,000 volunteers for three months.

The whole North was aroused and the people responded at once. Connecticut sent three full Regiments and in those Regiments Simsbury was represented by several men. The troops were all sent in and around Washington and were constantly drilling and doing guard duty. Until some time in July the country had got so uneasy that they moved and then the first Battle occurred the Battle of Bull Run. Where the Union army was victorious but did not know it and began to retreat even after the Rebels had commenced to retreat but the Rebels discovered that the Union army were also retreating so their Cavalry followed up the Union forces and almost made the retreat a panic. What was the result of this defeat to the loyal people. Did it discourage them? No. They only clenched their hands the tighter and took in the situation and said with determination this Rebellion must and shall be put down let it cost what it may in money or men.

The President immediately called for 200,000 men for three years and recruiting offices were opened in every city and every large town in the then Loyal States. Connecticut sent ten Regiments to the Front under this call. A very large proportion of the men that had been in the three months service immediately reenlisted for three years and went under this call and Simsbury was well represtentated (sic) and sent some of her best young men. Winter sent in. Roanoke Island and New Berne N.C. were captured, also Fort Royal S. C. New Orleans The first battle of Fredricksburgh (sic) was fought, then came the Spring of 1862 when another call for 200,000 for 3 years came. Connecticut sent Eight Regts under this call. It was under this call that your humble servant entered the service of the United States in that Grand but always unfortunate Regiment the 16th Conn. and you would think that the men sometimes thought so if you had have heart this misquotation as often as I have.—Man that is born of woman and enlists in the 16th Regiment is of few days and short of rations.

We went into camp down on the New Haven pike about two miles south of the New City Hall, Hartford and here began our first experience in the life of a Soldier. I thought then that I knew considerable, but before I had been in camp many days I found that I did not know but very little and that little I was not very sure off (sic). I was appointed 1st Seargt. Co. E. Well perhaps some of you would like to know what my duties were. Well it is easier to tell now what my duties were than it is to tell what I done. The duties of First Seargt are to fall in the company at all roll calls, always at sunrise in the

morning and at 9 o'clock in evening and dress parade at sunset and in fact at every time when the company is formed for any duty whatever form them in line and then turn

them over to the Commissiond (sic) officer in Command and then take his place on sight of the Company. The orders are always given to him for detail for guard or any other duty that men are to be detailed for. In fact to see that all proper details are made. But when I went into camp at first I not only detailed men to do the work but went and helped to do the work myself. But I soon go over that part and soon learned to do only what belonged to me to do. Well we done (sic) routine duties while in Hartford remaining there sometime over a month and finally left the state for the seat of war Aug 29 1862. It is impossible to describe our feelings when it came to say goodbye, some of us to wife and little ones other to aged Parents looking to them for support in their old age and perchance others leaving behind sweethearts never perhaps to see them again and in many cases, we know this was fullfilled (sic). Those were sad days and as I recall them after all these years, I sometimes wonder how did we all pass through them, but my friends we none of us know what we are capable of doing until we are put to the test.

The Regiment marched up through the City and embarked on two steamers for New York. At that City we were at once transferred to another steamer and sailed around Castle Garden up the North River to Elizabeth port N. J. Thence by Rail round about through Harrisburgh (sic) & York P.A. to Baltimore thence to Washington which was reached at night and were huddled into some building called "Soldiers Rest". That might have been the right name for it but to me it was anything else but rest for we were (cabudded?) in like so many cattle it seemed to me at that time with nothing but the soft side of board floor to lie on and as I recollect it not planed very smooth at that, and so very hot and the air so foul it is almost a wonder that any were able to move the next day. And I must say that for one I was sick all night and the next morning I was unable to march with the company, but was allowed to pick my way along as best I could as was the case with any "Straggler or Deadbeat" as so many got the name afterward but we got through Washington and crossed the long Bridge into the Sacred soil of Virginia and while crossing that Bridge we saw wounded men for the first time coming from the Second Bull Run battle where Gen Pope was defeated. I can think how I felt as I passed of the end of that bridge and found myself in the land of Rebellion that perhaps the next thing I should see would be a Rebel, but I did not see one that day that I know of, but we went out to Fairfax Heights some nine miles and went into camp or were turned out into the open field with a guard around us with no shelter but the Heavens over us. We looked in vain for the tents that we had in Hartford with the floors in them for the ticks filled with straw and one began to feel as though one were not thought much off (sic) after all. But we were yet green we had much in store for us yet to learn. Well about dark it began to rain and when I woke up I found myself lying in water about three inches deep and I was pretty thoroughly soaked from the crown of my head to the sole of my foot, and when I got up I think I felt about as a hen looks when you pull them out of the Swill Barrell (sic) by the tail. We remained at Fairfax about a week and then we had our arms issued to us and immediately were put on the march to join Gen McLellan (sic) and the army of the Potomac for Gen Lee with the Rebel Army was invading Maryland. We overtook the army three days after leaving Washington and then I saw the Eight Conn for the first time and saw my youngest Brother he being a member of that Regt. My older Brother was in the same Co & Regiment with myself. We all went

out together and he found some chickens and sweet potatoes and we had them cooked and had a nice dinner about the middle of the afternoon and then in getting back to the 8th we found them ready to march so we hurried to our Regt supposing we were to march to but found our Regt had no marching orders. We remained yet another day and then we had ammunition issued to us. We had our muskets several days but no ammunition until now, and now as we had all the necessary implements to fight with we start again to try and catch the main army again. We march on for several days through the finest country in the world. The road full of wagon train loaded with provisions, ammunition and forage for the animals so sometimes we were obliged to march for half a mile at a time in the ditch (That wagon train was some fifteen miles long).

We finally reached the foot of South Mountain the night of Sept 14th just after the fight was over and the main army had gone on after Lee. We went into camp on the Battle field and near where my Company lay were buried a number of men of the 22 nd Michigan a new Regt that had just come out. Little did we think how near we were to our first experience in fighting but it was very well that we could not see what was in store for us in the near future. The morning of Sept 15 th we crossed the mountain and then I saw the first dead Rebel the bodies had been picked up from the wagon tracks and laid by the side so that we could march through and there were pilled from two to four deep in some places. It was a sickening sight to me. The faces of nearly all them were nearly as black as the stove. The thought passed through my mind of their friends at home thinking of them lying there and perhaps to be buried in unknown graves for I am told there was a deep concern on the side of the mountain where hundreds of dead were thrown. On the top of the mountain we saw quite a number of prisoners that had been captured by our forces. These were the first live Rebels that I ever saw, and I assure you that I should have fared better than I did if these had been the last that I ever saw, but such was not the case.

We marched the 15 th and on the afternoon of the 16 th we caught up to the army again and while lying in the road we saw some shells from Lees guns. Here we heard Rebel artillery for the first in marching into a meadow to go into camp we passed through the eighth Conn Regiment and there I saw my Brother he said we would have a little brush with Lee and that would be all and he would then skedaddle over the Potomac. We went into camp and I slept on our arms, and as soon as daylight the pickets commenced firing on each other for they had not been over ten rods apart all and very soon Lees Artillery commenced throwing shells to find out where we lay. While lying there close to the ground there was a shell dropped into the eighth Conn and killed three or four and buried half as many more with earth. They were lying a few rods to our left in a more exposed position those were the first men on our side that I had seen killed. We were very soon ordered up and in passing out of that meadow we were obliged to pass directly in range of the Rebel guns. Here several of my Regt were wounded one piece passed so near me that it nearly knocked me down. Our surgeons horse was badly wounded at this point by a piece of shell striking him in the side but we soon got away from that trouble and we were marched through hollows and over hills through corn and swamp finnaly (sic) were halted on a hill where we could see the battle afar off.

Here we had a view of a battle that I suppose a very few have had the privilege to witness. That is to see a battle going on where you can see a large part of it and not taking any part themselves, and we did not then expect that we should be actively engaged in it at all. About 11 o'clock in the fornoon(sic) we were ordered to move and we were marched around. It seemed to me that at that time more for exersize (sic) than

anything else, and finally down to Antietham (sic) Creek and then were marched through the water being from one foot to three feet deep. After crossing the creek we were marched down about ½ mile and then up the hill and as soon as we were

discovered by the Rebels they opened their Artillery on us and you can rest assured that we got our heads down out of sight very soon and as the fireing (sic) ceased we were ordered up again. It seemed to me that the move was all foolishness at the time but afterward could see what of what benefit we had been by simply drawing the fire of the rebels and not being allowed to reply. Soon after we learned that Burnside had been trying to carry the bridge (that now bears his name) and had not succeeded but as soon as we crossed the creek and showed ourselves above the Hill we at once drew the fire of the Enemy. Now was the time to charge the Bridge which was done and was a success, so that we learned that we had acted as a decoy and was a success. But this decoy business was not all the part that we were to take in that now famous battle of Antietam.

We were marched up the hill not far from the bridge and were soon ordered in line of Battle. This was the first time we had formed a line of Battle and had never loaded our muskets so you can see we were in poor shape to be put into the thick of Battle but we marched down into a ravine into a cornfield and very soon found we were in a very hot fire. Our regiment was on the extreme left of the whole army and I staid (sic) in the corn until I looked up the corn rows and saw the Rebels not more than twenty rods from me coming down us, so I concluded it was time for me to get out of that place. I can assure you that I got out in good order all by myself. I cannot tell how or when the rest of the Regiment went for I think every one got out in his own way. After getting out of the corn the bullets were very thick and many were killed and wounded. While trying to get out of range of the Enemy fire, I soon came across Capt Babcock of my company badly wounded. I got down beside him and took his sword just at that time Gavett B. Holcomb came up and we went to the Hospital with him. I found my way back about one fourth of a mile and then found a small number of the Regiment lying there and waiting for some orders, soon after riding there I was struck by a bullet and I supposed I had received my fatal wound. I dropped on to the ground and some of the men were going to help me up but I felt I could not be moved finally I began to move one limb and then another and soon found that I was not dead and would try to get up which I did and found that the bullet passed through four thicknesses of my Haversack and two thick leather belts and then its force was stopped but I had supposed that it had passed through my body that night all that I could find was a black & blue spot on my side. We were soon ordered from here and marched down and across Burnside Bridge and into a meadow near by to camp for the night.

There was less than three hundred of us then where only three hours before there was over one thousand. I went with my Brother to the Eighth Regiment to learn the fate of my younger Brother Oliver and found only eight or ten of his company left from about forty they had in the morning. I was told by a comrade that stood beside him that he fell and he called him by name but no reply. Said he was no doubt killed. The next morning we were marched down near the bridge and lay there all day. No one was allowed on the field as it was held by sharpshooters on both sides. The next day Sept 19 myself and Brother had permission to go over the field and look for our Brother's body being very sure he was dead. We each took our canteens filled with water and commenced that awful sickening tramp and if I could picture to you the sad sights that we beheld. The

ground for acres and miles in length were strewed with dead and wounded and wounded crying for water they having lain there the whole day before and two nights but every one was looking for some comrade of their own regiment but sometime that afternoon we found the body of our Brother we were looking after. He was no doubt killed

instantly the bullet having passed through his head just about the top of his ears. We wrapped him in a blanket and carried him to the spot where the 16 th dead were to be buried having first got permission from the Col of the Eighth & 16th to do so. The 16 th men were buried side by side in a trench and then they dug a grave about 6 from them and we deposited the remains of my Brother in that having first pined a paper with his name and age on the inside of the Blanket then they put up boards to each with name and Regiment on them.

His [Oliver's] body lay there until December when Father went there and brought the body to Simsbury where it now lies to mingle with the soil of his native town. It looked the next morning after fight as if we should not last long for when we went into the fight there were ten first Seargents (sic) and that morning there but four for duty all the rest either killed or wounded and the Captains were in about the same proportion we had only been from home twenty days and only about one third of the Regiment left for duty. I tried to figure out how long the rest of us would last at that ratio. But you see that you cannot figure such a thing correctly for at this writing Dec 20th 1894 four of the original first Seargents (sic)are living. Chamberlain of Co (G??) Grohman Co D Alz Case Co. E. Bristol Co R. We moved from Antietam the third day after the fight about three miles to a place called Antietam Iron Works where we remained several days. While here we were visited by President Lincoln the only time that I ever saw him while president. The men cheered themselves hoarse at the sight of that man.

We remained in this camp something over a week and then took up the march for Pleasant Valley Md. We reached here about Oct 1 and remained about four weeks. It is quite a pleasant valley but the troops were crowded pretty near together and we had a great deal of rainy weather and no tents except small shelter tents that you could only sit up in and hardly long enough to cover your head and feet at the same time. This camp was about three miles from Harpers Ferry so that we could go down there and see that somewhat Historic spot it being the place where John Brown was captured and afterward hung.

When we moved here we started for Fredricksburg Va. It was a long and tedius (sic) march the roads being very bad and slippery as no other mud but Virginia mud can be. I've reached Falmouth opposite Fredricksburg about Nov 14 th in plain sight of the Rebels on the heights back of the city. At that the Rebels had no earth works and if we could have crossed then I think we could have driven them out very easily, but we remained here until Dec 10th martiry (?) it was said for Pontoons to come so that we could cross the river when at last the Pontoons arrived the hill back of Fredricksburg was very strongly fortified. The work of laying the Pontoons was a very difficult task for the Rebel sharpshooters would pick the men off. Finaly (sic) after two or three details had been driven back Capt W. P. Marsh and a company of the Eighth Conn succeeded in silencing their fire to such an extent as to get the bridge successfully laid. Then on the 12th of Dec 1862 the army finally crossed the river and occupied the City – the Rebels having fallen back behind their works on the hill. The next day the Army

was moved over into the ravine back of the city and there was considerable fighting on the right under Hooker and on the left under Franklin but as they were not sufficiently supported they were obliged to fall back. The next day being Sunday there was orders sent to the officers of my Regiment that at 10 a.m. the Heights were to be charged in three lines of battle. The 16th was to be in the second line. There was not to be a musket fired no caps on the guns.

Now imagine if you can such an order and what must have been the feelings of the men. Well knowing that the majority that made that charge would never come back but at the same time the utmost confidence that if properly supported the Heights would be carried. Officers took each other by the arm and gave each other the address of their wife mother or sweetheart and each one promising to write in case they came out alive. Well 10 o'clock came no order to move and then it was said we should move at 12 noon. 12 o'clock came no move. Than it was said we would move at 2 p.m. but before that hour arrived the order was countermanded and you can rest assured so far as the writer was concerned he felt a great relief for although I should not like to be called a coward I never felt like running myself up in front of the Enemies guns for the sake of being shot at. Just at dusk that night the Regiment was ordered on to the picket line over in the ravine at foot of Heights. We were to move as quietly as possible so as not to attract the attention of the Enemy when we got in position and were lying down I saw a man asleep with a good blanket over him so I with another officer lay down beside him putting our rubber blankets on the ground and two woolen ones over as I got as close to our sleeping comrade as possible and took a part of his blanket he sleeping too sound to be disturbed and when I awoke in the morning I found I had taken all of his blanket and upon getting up found that my bedfellow was dead. And they all had quite a laugh on me for robbing a dead man. There was one thing certain he did not disturb me and I am just as confident that I did not disturb him. Very soon after some of the Comrades of his Regiment came and carried his body into Town he belonged to some New York Regiment. We remained on the outpost until the following night when we marched back into town and had orders not to speak above a whisper and to secure everything that would make a noise like a canteen or tin cup. Of course with such orders I expected we were to make a charge and supprise (sic) the Rebels as it is about ten o clock P.M. We soon were on the move and after marching through several streets I saw that we had turned towards the river and soon found ourselves on the Pontoon bridge and then across the river. I can assure you I felt relief when I found the River between me and Fredricksburgh (sic).

We went at once to our old camp about one half mile distant and each one crawled into our own tents nearer dead than alive. For we had been across the river three days and although had not fired a shot there had been that terrible strain on our nerves which had been worse than going into a fight without knowing anything about it beforehand. I never shall forget the first morning of the battle of Fredricksburgh (sic).

Our camp was about one half mile from the river and we were all sleeping soundly about half past A.M. when over 100 pieces of Artillery all belched forth at one time. It seemed to me as though Earth trembled where we lay and the men were all out in Co Street within five minutes expecting orders to move but we remained in camp until afternoon before we crossed over. We remained in this same camp until Feb 7, 1863 or nearly two months after the battle. We were doing pickett (sic) duty and river bank and all other routine duties of camp life.

The Railroad bridge across the river at this point. The centre span of which had been destroyed a distance of about 50 feet so that we put a sentry on duty on one end and the Rebels had one on the other. One night a member of the 4 th RI. Was on that post and the Reb Sentry asked him what Regiment he belonged to and he answered 104 th RI.

What says the Rebel has Rhode Island got 104 Regiments in the field. Yes was the reply and she has 104 more all ready to come. I speak of this for it seems to me that this sentry had a better knowledge of the Geography of the country than the average Reb Soldier. Our duties here were regular routine duties until the 9 th of Feb '83 when we were ordered to pack up everything and get ready to move. We were marched down to Falmouth and put on hand cars and run from the(re) to Aquia Creek, and then went immediately on board Transport not knowing our destination nor caring for we knew full well we could not get a worse place than the one we had just left. We went down the river and finally anchored of Fortress Monroe. There was a place of a great deal of interest to us.

Here one can see the armed vessels of all nations at anchor and then on our right is that large Fortress capable of holding 20,000 men and one that the Rebels never got into their possession. My thought as I got the first view of it was that it looked like a large Resevoir (sic) although there were a few guns on the top of it. It is one of those forts that seems to be almost impossible to be captured there is masonry on the inside but the outside is earth all nicely grassed over. I suppose the top is twenty feet thick and at the base perhaps fifty feet and one side is one the beach while the other three sides have a deep canal some twenty five feet wide with only one draw to enter the fort and that is protected very strong so as I said it is almost impossible to capture it. We lay here a few hours and then weighed anchor and went up the James River about ten miles and landed at Newport News.

After landing we ascend quite a steep hill and then come on to a large sandy plain there we find barracks for the men and houses for the officers Two companies in each barrack and about six officers in each house. Now we begin a new life. We are in better quarters than we have ever had and no mud in a very few days. We have improved so much that we scarcly (sic) recognize ourselves. While sitting in my house I can see the wrecks of the Congress & Cumberland that were sunk by the Rebel Ram Merrimack before the little Monitor came down and gave her battle and sent her over towards Portsmouth to sink which saved all the fleet around Fort Monroe from being lost for it looked at that time we had nothing there that could compete with her.

We supposed when we came here that all the Ninth Corps was to be with but only the third division come, and Burnside with the other two divisions some time after went out to Tennessee. While we remained at Newport News we had a very pleasant time although we were having company and Regimental drills every day while the weather was pleasant and could go down to Fort Monroe very often as the Steamer went down and back twice a day and it cost nothing so we made a very pleasant trip with very little expense.

This was our first experience in doing guard duty in strictly Regulation Style having rocks for the muskets of the Guards while of their (heat?) and having the Grand Rounds made by the Officer of day of the Regiment also of the Brigade. I never shall forget my

first experience as officer of the Guard at this place. The Sentry rang out "Grand Rounds." Guard fall in. The men fell in at once myself on the right and when we were all formed there was still two muskets in the rack. The General rode up and asked me where the two men were that owned those muskets. I told him that I did not know unless they had gone to their Quarters. He told one of his orderlies to get off his horse and get the two muskets. You can well imagine my feelings at that time. He started to obey but just before he had placed his hands on them the sentry on No. one whose business was to guard them brought his gun to a charge and told him he could not take those guns. I felt relieved for I could not bear the idea of any one coming and carrying of our guns while we were on duty. The General then told me to find the men and make them stand extra two hours as a punishment for going to their quarters to sleep when off Post. You can rest assured that was a good lesson for me.

We remained in this camp about two months or until early in April when we were again ordered to pack up and went on board Transports for we knew not where, but when we finally landed it was at Norfolk, Va. duty about Seventeen miles sail. We went ashore and lay in the street, all the evening when we learned that we were to be put aboard of cars and sent to Suffolk VA a distance of about thirty miles. It was very cool that night so the Post Quartermaster told the officers they could go down and get into a passenger car that stood on the siding and the train would stop and hitch us on when it came down. So into the car we went and made ourselves very comfortable for the night. We had been there about an hour when we heard the train coming and they passed us very rapidly we soon made up our mind that the Reg. had gone to Suffolk without us. Col Burnham sprung to his feet and says what is to be done now. The Regiment has gone and not a ------ office with. He at once sent to the Quartermaster to have him send and Engine and take us up but he would not saying there was a train going early in the morning and we would have to wait. The officers except the Colonel took it very quietely (sic) and were soon sleeping nicely, but he (the Col) was quite nervous for some time wondering what the men would do without the officers. But morning came and soon found our train moving up through the woods toward Suffolk. On our arrival we found the men near the Railroad where they were unloaded the night before they had a nice cup of hot coffee for us and were apparently as glad to see us as we were to see them. They were not aware of the absence of the officers until they come to get off the train and then they had nothing to do except make themselves comfortable until they had orders from their officers. We marched out about one third of a mile from Town and went into camp on a very nice lot next to the Highway which made us a fine camp while we remained here.

Our first night by some mistake we had no countersign sent to our Regiment so that we were obliged to have one of our own for camp. But some of us wanted to go down town and I found that a green conscript Regiment was doing picket duty between us and Town so I thought I would try and see if "Check" would not let me pass them so I invited three or four officers to go down Town betting them that I could pass the pickett (sic) all right. Off we started were soon challenged "Who Comes here" Friends with the "Countersign" advance one with the Countersign. I advanced and gave him a countersign. He looked up very innocently and says that it is not the one I have. I say that is the one I have. What is Jones"?

He told me so I was all right and we went down town and got supper came back to camp. I soon met the Colonel he said he wanted to go down town but could not as he had no countersign so I told him what it was and he and the Major went down when he found out how I got it.

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Transcribed January 2010 by Simsbury Historical Society

Alonzo Grove Case participated in the battle at Plymouth, NC on April 20, 1864 where he was shot in the foot and taken prisoner. He was confined at Andersonville Prison. He was paroled February 28, 1865 and discharged May 15, 1865.

During his prison life he suffered extreme privation. He lost over 45 pounds and suffered greatly from hunger, and the consequences of the ill treatment he received, he was a physical wreck and later suffered from asthma contracted in prison.

This Week--Community Newspaper
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History Today Column
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Letters Describe Life in Civil War

A trip in the planning stages for several years led Richard Converse in more directions than he could imagine. Since retirement, he has spent countless hours researching his family history, and now he is even writing a booklet based on letters he discovered last September during a trip to Simsbury, Conn.

He descended from early Worthington and Powell settlers who came from that small north central Connecticut community.

During his trip, he was welcomed and assisted at the Phelps Tavern Museum by its archivist and a docent. He was shown a file of transcribed letters written by Oliver Cromwell Case during the Civil War.

The letters were to Case's sister, Abbie Jane Case. Oliver was 21 years of age, and Abbie was 15. They provide such insight that Converse is writing "A Civil War Story about a Union Soldier's Journey into Battle," to share Case's story.

Case joined the 8th Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in September 1861.

The men left Hartford by boat with Annapolis as their destination. Converse points out that serving in the Civil War were 60 men from Connecticut named Case and 200 from Ohio.

The letters sent to sister Abbie were frequent and often filled with uncertainty about how long they might remain in a location or comments about when they would be leaving for the Confederacy, something Case looked forward to.

He encouraged Abbie with her education. After sending love to family members, Oliver closed his letters with "Respect to all inquiring friends."

He describes food given by townspeople -- gingersnaps, some turnips, some apples, and 1,000 loaves of bread. There was a boxed Thanksgiving dinner sent from home. It arrived in mid-December, and the soldiers described the chicken as "old," but he wrote that they appreciated it. He describes rebels with a white flag and riding atop a box car to get a breeze on a hot, hot August day. His regular letters are filled with his observations of the countryside, battles and people.

From Annapolis on Nov. 3, he wrote that he had not enjoyed his life so much as since he had become a soldier. At one point, he describes the tent as being so comfortable that he felt he was living like a king. That was rare, of course.

Case watched a friend die and said it was "the most sorrowful time that I have ever witnessed." Henry Sexton died a horrific death from jaundice aboard a schooner. This man received no attention from a doctor.

Case describes illnesses of his own. We know that the number of deaths from sickness during the war was staggering.

Oliver Cromwell Case's last letter sent to his sister was dated Aug. 7, 1862. He had served his country for almost a year.

He was killed Sept. 17, 1862 during the battle of Antietam in Maryland, described as the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. His older brothers, Alonzo and Ariel, fighting with the 16th Regiment, learned that only about 10 of the men from the 8th Regiment survived.

The brothers had to wait two days for permission to search for Oliver's body.

In "Recollections of Camp and Prison Life," Alonzo wrote, "The ground for acres and perhaps for miles were (sic) strewn with dead and wounded." Locating Oliver and seeing the wound to his head suggested he was killed instantly.

The brothers wrapped Oliver in a blanket and pinned identification on him prior to digging his grave. Three months later, their father had Oliver's remains taken to Simsbury for burial.

Richard Converse learned he is a third cousin four times removed from the young man who now occupies his life. When he develops a curiosity about something or begins a project, he devotes his days and nights to learn as much as possible.

In recent years, Converse, who lives in South Carolina, successfully researched other Case descendants and personally led the effort to get an Ohio Historical marker in Highbanks Metro Park.

It recognizes five Case family men who were members of the Union Land Co., which purchased land in Liberty Township in 1806. He also obtained a Memorial Grave Marker to honor Seth Case, who served in the Revolutionary War in Connecticut but died in Ohio. That marker is in The Liberty Church Cemetery.

Carole Wilhelm is a member of the Powell-Liberty Historical Society.

Carole Wilhelm

Editors Note: Carole Wilhelm, has been a friend for several years, who lives in Powell, Ohio and writes the History Today column for the This Week Newspaper. She is active in the Powell-Liberty Historical Society and in the community. I appreciated this article because Carole captured the essence of the story in early 2010 long before I had my thoughts and the writing completed.

The following is a copy of a four page letter written by Oliver Cromwell Case in his own handwriting on December 15, 1861 addressed to his brother Alonzo Job Case written from Annapolis, Maryland as follows:

To A. J. Case, Esq.

Hartford, Conn.

Letter received June 7, 2010 from:
Connecticut Historical Society—
Museum and Library
One Elizabeth Street
Hartford, Ct. 06105

Annapolis Dec 15th 1861

Dear Brother

I recd the long expected box of Thanksgiving dinner yesterday the 14th of Dec. Of course every thing with the exception of the walnuts & Chesnuts (which we are feasting upon today) are spoiled They are nice & we are enjoying them ~~to the uttermost~~. with a will. I write this too you thinking that perhaps you can get the bag for the expressage returned to you. I forgot to mention that there was a few apples that were not decayed but most of them were gone in. It did me good to look at the Chicken ~~Roasted~~ Baked chicken pudding &c&c if they were mouldy.

Oliver's Original Handwriting

Al. Thomas one of my tent mates who opened the box says write "That I tasted of every thing in the box & it was all very nice but getting old" I tasted of a little piece of the chicken pie crust which was quite nice. The dishes will be very handy for us to use. Broatch wishes to be remembered to you. He is sleeping with us now. Mrs W P Mauk arrived at camp yesterday. Corporal Porter brother has been helping the Lieut. flour over his tent & fix it up so that it would be in good style when his wife arrived. Lieut Hoyt is with the patrol so that Lieut Mauk has got every thing his own way. Corporal Porter has been sick a long time

with camp fever. He is improving slowly but has a hard cough. It will be a long time before he fully recovers. His brother has been here nearly a week & is going to stay until he gets well or is discharged. I see by the Hartford papers that we are expected to leave soon but we hear nothing about it here. We had brigade review Friday & division inspection yesterday. In the former there was 5 regiments in the latter 11. It is said that Col. Harland wants to spend the winter here & Gov Hicks is using his influence to have us stay & many think that between them both we shall make out to spend the winter here. I receive Hartford papers nearly every

day. I am now just well enough to be upon duty. I have not done anything before for some time but now I am as smart as ever. Rumor that the negroes have burnt Charleston. Good

Remember me to all enquiring friends. Excuse writing as my hand trembles.

From your Brother

C. L. Core

To
A. L. Core Esq
Hartford Conn